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Daily Report

Latin America

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Daily Report
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FBIS-LAT-94-153 *9 August 1994*

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Cuba

Castro Meets Colombia's Samper, Spain's Solana

FL0808134194 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 Aug 94

[From the "First Thing" program]

[Text] Cuban President Fidel Castro affectionately hugged new Colombian President Ernesto Samper Pizano during official greetings at the Presidential Palace in Bogota on 7 August. Castro and other guests visited the Presidential Palace following the inauguration, held in Bolivar Square. Castro and Samper greeted each other with an affectionate hug and held a brief and lively dialogue. This was their second meeting of the day, after having met a few hours before the inauguration. Castro later proceeded to carry out a busy agenda, including meetings with Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana and Inca University Dean Leonor Garcia de Andrade. En route to the Tequendama Hotel, where Castro and the Cuban delegation is staying, he was greeted by supporters gathered along El Dorado Avenue bearing Cuban and Colombian flags and banners advocating the lifting of the U.S. blockade against Cuba.

'Hundreds' Turn Out To Greet Castro

PA0808225494 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2057 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Article by Frank Gonzalez]

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 8 Aug (PL)—The huge human and popular dimension of the Colombian people's solidarity with Cuba was demonstrated today when a cheerful crowd greeted President Fidel Castro in this capital.

Hundreds of people filled the main convention room of the downtown Tequendama Hotel to meet the revolutionary leader and the delegation which accompanied him to the inauguration of new Colombian President Ernesto Samper Pizano.

Workers, students, intellectuals, artists, labor union leaders, and congressmen filled the auditorium to welcome the Caribbean leader with repeated expressions of friendship toward him and his people.

Alejandro Gomez was in the crowd trying to clear the way with his accordion. He was the same person who visited the island in 1960 and played that famous tune with the well-known words "Cuba Yes, Yankees No."

"Fidel, Our Friend, Colombia is With You" and "Fidel, Keep Going Because Cuba is Respected" were some of the slogans chanted by the attendees gathered in the room, which was decorated with huge banners with words of support and demands for the lifting of the U.S. blockade against Cuba.

Poet Jose Luis Diaz Granados, president of the Colombian House of Solidarity with Peoples, was the first to speak. He noted that the Cuban people are writing the most beautiful page of courage and dignity.

Then came Orlando Obregon, who on behalf of the United Workers Federation mentioned Cuba as an example of independence and sovereignty. He also reaffirmed the willingness of the Colombian workers to continue supporting the resistance of the Cuban people.

Senator Roberto Gerlein, a conservative, spoke on behalf of a group of congressmen. When he greeted the revolutionary leader who was present, he praised the decision of the Colombian Government to restore and develop its ties with the biggest island of the Antilles.

The congressman said that one may agree or disagree with Fidel Castro, but he is still someone who, because of his accomplishments, is a universal figure who not only belongs to the history of Cuba or America but of the world.

Another senator, a representative of the Indian communities in Congress, Lorenzo Muelas, modestly and shyly took the microphone but very surely expressed his admiration for the Cuban revolution and its maximum leader.

One by one, distinguished members of the various sectors conveyed their greetings, all with genuine expressions of affection.

Fidel Castro responded with a speech in which he referred to various topics, including his personal participation in the popular revolt of 9 April 1948, known as the Bogotazo [destructive riot in Bogota following the assassination of Jorge Eliecer Gaitan].

Visibly moved and thankful for the expressions of solidarity by those present, the president told them that as long as people like them existed in the world, there would be dignity, freedom, and hope.

Castro Reaffirms Will To Resist

PA0808212694 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1921 GMT 8 Aug 94

[By Abel Sardina]

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 8 Aug (PL)—President Fidel Castro reaffirmed here today that Cuba will resist, because no honest, moral man is willing to kneel before he fades from the scene, and he highlighted his people's heroic position in these difficult times.

The Cuban leader, who attended the inauguration ceremony of new Colombian President Ernesto Samper the previous evening, met and talked extensively with the leaders of Cuban solidarity groups that included members of unions, young people, women, congressmen, and other personalities.

Referring to statements made by several of the speakers at the event, Fidel Castro said he shared their faith and

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hope in the world. He asserted that the world will change after we get rid of the barbarians who today are attempting to dominate it, and he predicted that imperialism will be unable to dominate the planet.

The Cuban president said that since he last visited Santa Fe de Bogota when he was a 21-year-old student in 1948, many changes have taken place in the world, and he added that particularly negative changes have been experienced recently. Nevertheless, he said, today many people are returning from the fantasies and deceptions to which they had been led.

Fidel Castro pointed out that Latin America has changed for the better in regard to Cuba, which is not being isolated by the region but, rather, is suffering from a double blockade—the one imposed by the United States for more than 30 years, and the one resulting from the disappearance of the Socialist bloc, especially the Soviet Union.

Our modest revolution, which is the product of our people's efforts, will never be defeated. As long as there are men and women like you, the world will enjoy equality and freedom, said the Cuban leader to those attending the solidarity meeting.

He highlighted, among other issues, Cuba's participation in the Ibero-American summits and in the Association of Caribbean States, and he added that the United States, envious of those summits, has organized one in Miami from which it has excluded his country.

The head of the Cuban Revolution reiterated that he would like Latin America to tell Washington the entire truth at that summit.

Recalling his participation in the 9 April 1948 people's revolt here, after liberal leader Jorge Eliecer Gaitan's murder, Fidel Castro said it was one of the most objectively altruistic and good things he has done in his life.

Just and noble causes are the same everywhere, and they have to be defended not only in one's own fatherland but wherever we find ourselves, he said.

Events Termed Part of U.S. Plan To Intervene

PA0808181494 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1542 GMT 8 Aug 94

[By Javier Rodriguez]

[Text] Havana, 8 Aug (PL)—The events in Cuba during the past few days have deeply imprinted on the nation's life and persuaded the Cuban people, if it was at all necessary, of the existence of a U.S. plan to militarily intervene in the island.

The turbulent events that occurred after the tugboat "13 March" was commandeered on 13 July, events which continued with the seizure of three other small, passenger boats in the Bay of Havana on consecutive days, led to more serious incidents.

The assassination of Noncommissioned Police Officer Gabriel Lamoth Caballero on 4 August and the actions of violent groups against stores and people in the center of the capital pushed tension to the maximum.

The reaction of workers and young people in support of the local police defeated the rioters, and control of the streets returned to the revolutionaries.

Anyway, the agitated weekend, which is just over, outlined the difference of opinion between the authorities and the Cuban people on the officially recognized right to emigrate or dissent, as well as the position that is part of a foreign, deliberate plan to divide the country.

President Fidel Castro's remarks coincide with the personal opinion of the majority of the people, disseminated by the media and during rallies to support the revolution, which have already shaken the capital and other cities.

The most recent events for Cuba represent an escalation in Washington's long-cherished desire to destroy the political process that started in January 1959.

According to widespread opinion, the idea is to pass from the stage of disinformation and propaganda on the national situation to the creation of groups capable of violently breaking into the local scene in order to unleash a true bloodbath in the country. This would pave the way for a direct intervention by the U.S. Armed Forces, although no one doubts the tremendous resistance such an attempt would encounter.

These realities hardened Cuba's position, even after the people's response on the streets demonstrated the majority's rejection of the counterrevolutionary plot.

U.S. Chief Invited To Tour Streets of Havana

PA0808144994 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 8 Aug 94

[From the "Morning Information" newscast]

[Text] The Cuban weekly JUVENTUD REBELDE has invited, in an open letter, Joseph Sullivan, chief of the U.S. Interests Section in Havana, to walk through the streets of the city to learn of and compare the actions of the lumpen who coordinated the disturbances and the Cuban patriots who defended the streets.

The note to Sullivan, signed by reporter Arleen Rodriguez, warns the antisocial individuals who broke windowpanes and threw rocks at passers-by several days ago are the same ones who could attack U.S. citizens one day if the United States accepts them.

The letter states to the U.S. official the Cuban people have received abundant threats from the U.S. Government throughout many years, but they have also known how to handle these threats. In addition, the reporter invites the U.S. diplomat to give a strict account to his bosses in Washington and act as an honest diplomat

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when he verifies the true patriots are defending their nation on the streets of Havana against the vandalism of very small groups, the presence of which is a shame in any civilized nation.

Las Tunas Fishermen Thwart Boat Hijacking

FL0808153694 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 Aug 94

[From the "First Thing" program]

[Text] Fishermen in Manati, Las Tunas Province, have prevented a group of people from commandeering a fishing boat to emigrate to Florida. The failed attempt gave rise to an expression of revolutionary commitment, that once again expressed the Cuban people's determination to firmly and consciously support the Revolution and Fidel. Julian Lopez Hernandez, Cuban Communist Party first secretary in Las Tunas, praised the patriotic attitude of the Manati fishermen who prevented the hijacking of a fishing boat.

MIAMI HERALD Cited on 'Distant Shore' Immigration Plan

FL0808192194 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 Aug 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

[Text] THE MIAMI HERALD has confirmed that a secret plan, codenamed Distant Shore, will be implemented in case of a mass exodus from Cuba. The Pentagon will deploy naval units to thwart any efforts to reach south Florida, while authorities will arrest and prosecute Cuban emigres attempting to pick up relatives in Cuba. The newspaper describes the deployment of warships as a broad barrier covering the entire length of the Florida Straits, between Key West and Havana.

Reporter Roberto Cavada, from Radio Rebelde's "Doing Radio" program, has interviewed Andres Gomez, president of the Antonio Maceo brigade and director of AREITO magazine, and Marcos Castellon—on the telephone from Miami's Radio Progreso Alternativa—on the alleged fact that this deployment will block the arrival of Cuban immigrants, as well as the departure of vessels from Florida:

[Begin recording] [Gomez] I think they mean a mass exodus in terms of vessels leaving Cuban coasts toward the United States.

[Cavada] Not rafters?

[Gomez] Right, not rafters but attempts by Cubans abroad or other individuals in the United States wishing to go to Cuba to pick up Cuban citizens.

[Cavada] The situation would remain the same because the Cuban Government stated clearly that the goal is to completely thwart the entire illegal exodus through our coasts, from people leaving in rafts to people stealing vessels.

[Gomez] The situation as stated right now remains as last week.

[Cavada] I do not know if Marcos has any information on rafters arriving in Miami.

[Castellon] Yes. The HERALD reports that five rafters were picked up yesterday, a figure so small that it is significant. The large influx seems to have dropped this weekend. I would like to mention something regarding these alleged measures: The situation here has always been characterized by delays due to bureaucratic red tape and contradiction between federal and state authorities. There has always been a lack of coordination. Right now, although it is being said that it will be implemented, I believe, like Andres, that it is intended in the case of a mass exodus. It is groundless to say that in these high seas interception would also be carried out in case of isolated rafters.

[Gomez] In other words, the possibility of a mass exodus exists and is real.

[Castellon] The mood here is not like the hysteria of Mariel. No one is saying: Let's go pick up people! This is not the mood. It is truly known and acknowledged that that would be a disaster. Therefore, I believe it is good for those who believe that they will get the red carpet treatment to understand that the fruit is not ripe, at least right now. The commitment to implement this contingency plan is steadfast, such as they are doing with the Haitians, who, as you know, do not even make it to U.S. shores. [end recording]

AP Report on U.S. Official's 'Mass Exodus' Remarks Cited

FL0808193694 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 Aug 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

[Text] AP carries a Washington-datelined report pointing out that although the situation in Cuba is currently calm, U.S. officials are pushing ahead with contingency plans to handle a mass exodus. Leon Panetta, White House chief of staff, has said that the U.S. Government wants to avoid a repeat of the 1980 Mariel boatlift, which brought 125,000 people to the Florida coasts. A U.S. Government official who requested anonymity said that one of the options is a blockade of the straits between Key West and Cuba. The official added that President Bill Clinton has not made a decision about it and reiterated Panetta's pronouncement that the situation in Cuba is calm. AP also quotes Cuban President Fidel Castro's remarks in Bogota on 6 August. Fidel stated: It is true that there is discontent among some people, but you must keep in mind the immense patriotism of the majority of the people, who understand the

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reasons for our problems and who are committed to defending the nation, the Revolution, and socialism.

Normalization of Immigration Ties With U.S. Expected

PA0908023094 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Aug 94

[From the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Carlos Fernandez de Cossio, director of the Cuban Foreign Ministry's North America office, has declared that the country expects the United States to be willing to normalize their immigration relations and that it stop using the issue as part of its policy against the island. In statements to the "National Radio News" newscast, Fernandez de Cossio said the United States would be the main loser if there is an exodus of Cubans, because it would have to absorb the social, economic, and political impact resulting from the sudden presence of immigrants on its territory.

PCC Secretary Criticizes U.S. Aggression at Lamoth Funeral

PA0908014294 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2307 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Havana, 8 Aug (PL)—Cuba will continue working for progress, despite the many aggressions by the Washington administration, such as the economic blockade and the killing of a policeman, who was buried today in the eastern city of Guantanamo, a ranking party leader stated. Juan Carlos Robinson, who was recently appointed first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC) in the eastern province of Santiago de Cuba, made that statement during a massive ceremony in Mariana Grajales Plaza in Guantanamo. The ceremony was chaired by Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] General Raul Castro, who is second secretary of the PCC.

During the tribute rendered to noncommissioned officer Gabriel Lamoth Caballero, Robinson proclaimed the Cuban people's decision to continue their struggle against the actions of the United States, which intends to make it surrender out of hunger, to provoke chaos and division, and to defeat the triumphant revolution of 1 January 1959.

He said this plan is formulated in the power spheres of the United States to disrupt order in the country and to create a climate that would favor an invasion under the pretext of a humanitarian intervention, Robinson charged.

The leader thus alluded to the vandalistic acts unleashed by many antisocials last Friday in the capital of Havana, which left a toll of one dead, 35 injured, and material damage to businesses.

The fatality was Gabriel Lamoth Caballero, 19 years old, born in Guantanamo, who was killed when he attempted to prevent the hijacking of a small vessel on its regular course in the Bay of Havana.

Robinson warned the elements in Cuba who play up to the United States that they will be punished with the full weight of the law and that the millions of men who are mourning the policeman's death today will remain united and ready to counter any type of move against the revolution.

In his brief speech before ranking PCC leaders, the Armed Forces, and the people of Guantanamo, seat of a U.S. Naval Base against the wishes of the Cuban people, he referred to the U.S. immigration policy, which he termed shameless.

When people request visas through legal channels to visit or meet relatives in the United States, they are denied, but when they hijack a boat or violate borders, endangering the lives of children and the elderly, they are received as heroes, the speaker charged.

He also referred to the constant verbal attacks on radio broadcasts with the sole purpose of discrediting the revolution with lies.

Despite the 35 years of blockade, if things are done well and current difficulties are faced with talent and work, and if the domestic financial situation is improved, the conquests of the revolution will be preserved, the leader added. Robinson will soon be leaving his post as first secretary of the PCC in Guantanamo to go to Santiago.

Following the keynote speech, the plaza was the venue of a military parade preceding the mortal remains of Lamoth Caballero, who was buried in the FAR pantheon in San Rafael Cemetery in Guantanamo.

Raul Castro Speaks at Lamoth Burial Site

FL0908021794 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Aug 94

[From the "Exclusive" program]

[Text] In Guantanamo, Army General Raul Castro headed the burial march of Lt. Gabriel Lamoth Caballero, who has just been buried in the San Rafael Cemetery.

Those of us who had the opportunity to go to the San Rafael Cemetery, and who saw the number of people who accompanied Lt. Lamoth to his last resting place, also witnessed how the people of Guantanamo Province called out to Raul Castro, asking him to say a few words. These were truly the only words he said, when the people of Guantanamo asked him to do so. I, this reporter speaking to you now, was very near to him and heard him say as he lifted his hand:

[Begin recording] People of Guantanamo, viva free Cuba, damn it! [crowd heard shouting Viva!] [end recording]

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Those were the only words that Raul Castro said to the crowd after he had been requested to do so by the crowd at the ceremony.

Agriculture Minister Admits Responsibility for Deficiencies

FL0808125094 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 Aug 94

[From the "First Thing" program]

[Text] Havana's agricultural leaders, accountable for 40 percent of national production, agreed to answer the Revolution leaders' combat call. Directors of assorted agricultural enterprises, leaders of Basic Cooperative Production Units [UBPC] and state farms, presidents of cooperatives, and other agricultural leaders in Havana discussed the recommendations of Fidel and Raul Castro to boost agricultural production.

Agriculture Minister Alfredo Jordan Morales stressed the need for urgent changes in agricultural production, particularly in organization and efficiency, to restore the sector's dignity and to guarantee the supply of food staples needed in Havana and Havana Province. Jordan criticized the plans' shallowness, the shoddiness in different planting phases, the technological lack of discipline, and other deficiencies that affect agricultural production by decreasing it by thousands of quintales when compared to the first semester of 1993. Jordan admitted to being one of the main people responsible for the deficiencies in the sector he leads and stated that the battle to nourish the people involves everyone, thus calling for a critical study in each of the basic units.

The meeting studied the main deficiencies on each of the principal crops with self-criticism and proposed to overcome material shortages and other limitations to increase yield and production.

Jordan mentioned as an example the Bustos Cesar Sandino Agricultural Cooperative, in San Antonio de los Banos, and its president, Antonio Roche, which has increased production despite shortages in recent years.

The meeting was open to the study of any alternatives aimed at increasing farm production, including transference of cadres and administrative leaders with production experience to manage the bases. He mentioned various examples in Havana.

Jordan called for the UBPCs to assume their relative independence and the authority the Revolution gave them to fulfill their compromise with the people and to study new ways of distribution and marketing but with production as their main goal.

Ross, Garcia Chair Matanzas Meeting on Raul Castro Speech

FL0608171694 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Report by Matanzas correspondent Manolo Garcia; From the "Doing Radio" program]

[Text] Beginning last night, the Radio Rebelde field office in Matanzas has been receiving messages expressing full support for the statements made by Fidel last night on national television. Workers, students, soldiers, men and women of the production and services sector, as well as housewives have expressed their support for the Revolution in the face of internal and external enemies.

The same was expressed earlier at the Cuban Workers Federation [CTC] provincial plenum in support of Raul's address to the National Assembly. Politburo members Pedro Ross Leal, first secretary of the CTC, and Yadira Garcia Vera, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in Matanzas Province, chaired the plenum.

It was announced at the plenum that model assemblies will be held from 1-15 September for workers to discuss contributions to mend the national finances and budget as established by the tax bill that was debated in the National Assembly of the People's Government.

Yadira Garcia called the workers to be steadfast during this period, and to give their utmost effort because the future of the Revolution and Cuba is at risk. Yadira Garcia reiterated that the union cadres were ready to tackle looming challenges and work closely with the workers.

For his part, Pedro Ross Leal called union leaders to act with creativeness, and ideological and political prowess in light of the measures being implemented and, above all, strongly uphold national defense.

FAR To Use 10 Brigades To Eliminate Public Faucets

FL0508234394 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] The Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] will support the provincial waterworks directorate in eliminating public faucets in the distribution networks. For that purpose, they will use compressors, trucks, and small backhoes, which together with other resources, will allow them to change the current panorama of waste.

Lourdes Mirjans, director of that entity, explained to the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY [AIN] that the FAR will utilize 10 brigades, five of which are already working in Boyeros Municipality. The other five will begin in Arroyo Naranjo in mid-August. Mirjans went on to say that minibrigades will also be involved in working in the people's defense tunnels and will help with the elimination of public faucets in Diez Octubre Municipality, another one of the areas most affected by that problem.

Dominican Republic

Opposition Party Gains Majority in Congress

PA0808182494 Paris AFP in Spanish 1715 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Santo Domingo, 8 Aug (AFP)—According to a Central Electoral Board report released today, the opposition Dominican Revolutionary Party [PRD], headed

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by Francisco Pena Gomez, has attained a simple majority in the Dominican Congress.

The PRD participated, with Pena as presidential candidate, in the 16 June general elections, which, according to official results, were won by Joaquin Balaguer, the current conservative president, with a lead of less than 1 percent.

The PRD has reported a number of irregularities in the past elections but could reach an agreement with Balaguer on holding elections ahead of time during the next term, according to the most recent reports.

In the Chamber of Deputies, the PRD obtained 57 seats against 50 of the ruling Social Christian Reformist Party [PRSC] and 13 of the leftist Dominican Liberation Party [PLD].

In the Senate, the PRD obtained 15 of the 30 available seats. The remainder of the seats were won in the following manner: 14 by the PRSC, and one by the PLD. The new congressional term will last four years.

The PRSC has 57 seats, the PLD 44, and the PRD 36 in the outgoing Congress, and there are 13 independent members or dissidents of traditional parties.

Haiti

Civilians, 'Zombies' To Help Combat Intervention

FL0808172694 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 8 Aug 94

[All figures as heard]

[Text] The Army has trained hundreds of Port-au-Prince citizens on how to handle weapons in the event of international intervention in Haiti. Several hundred civilians participated in the Haitian Army training courses, held in Champs-de-Mars before foreign television cameras. Military personnel, dressed in olive green uniforms, drove a tank around the National Palace and the Army and Police Headquarters. The civilian participants reportedly are members of the Front for Patriotic Resistance [Front de la Resistance Patriotique] and of the Assembly of Democrats for the Republic. The press has been told that the civilians are volunteers committed to the Army in the event of foreign intervention in Haiti:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] Grenadiers, to the attack! Whoever dies does not count! [Words indistinct] we are not afraid of foreigners!

[Unidentified speaker] I am a Haitian, and I am concerned. They have practically declared war on us. If something happens, we must rise up and save the country. We cannot let the country sink to the bottom. The foreigners want war even though we do not have any problems with them. We must prepare while awaiting the foreigners. We started training on Monday.

[Correspondent] How is the training?

[Unidentified speaker] Very good. The military is very thorough.

[Correspondent] Have you used a weapon yet?

[Unidentified speaker] No, not yet. We are not yet at that stage. The volunteers are part of whatever is going on. We number about 300,000. We are all here. We are all getting training in everything so that we can tell the foreigners: No! We will stop the foreigner and tell him to back up. The 30,000 of us will have the help of 60,000 zombies, 60,000 spirits that will seize the foreigners' weapons and break their necks.

[Correspondent] As the person in charge of the Volunteers for National Security, was any watchword given to the countryside?

[Unidentified speaker] All the towns in the countryside in the nine departments received orders. Everyone is ready. Everyone is training to tell the foreigners that we are ready.

[Crowd, chanting] We are ready for Clinton! Our country belongs to us! We are ready for them! Our country belongs to us!

[Correspondent] This took place in Champ-de-Mars on 6 August.

It should be noted that General Cedras told CNN on 6 August that many young Haitians nationwide are arriving at military posts to commit themselves and get trained because they know that they must defend their country. [end recording]

Closure of Argentine, Colombian Embassies Confirmed

FL0808182594 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] A diplomatic official who wished to remain anonymous told AFP on 6 August that Argentina and Colombia have closed their embassies in Haiti for safety reasons.

Many journalists gathered at Bourdon's El Rancho Hotel, where Argentine diplomats were staying, to report the diplomats' departure. The official said that Colombia has assured that the closing is temporary. He also noted that Argentina repatriated five diplomats and nine security guards who were in Port-au-Prince via the Dominican Republic. Argentine Ambassador Carlos Carrasco chose to leave Port-au-Prince following repeated threats to the Argentine representation, this official explained, adding that the death threats against Latin American countries began after the UN Security Council approved Resolution 940, authorizing armed intervention in Haiti. Diplomatic circles in Haiti report that several countries might follow the two South American countries' lead.

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Radio Stations End Newscasts After Threats

PA0908052694 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0410 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 8 Aug (NOTIMEX)—A radio station in Haiti announced today it was suspending its newscast due to threats, and other media sources reported similar complaints amid unconfirmed reports of the closure of the Argentine Embassy.

"On Friday after the newscast, three civilians with high-caliber weapons threatened our reporters," said Yolette Mengual, director of Arc-en-Ciel Radio, which rebroadcasts programs in Creole from the U.S. Voice of America.

The reports on threats made by unidentified individuals against media sources increased after the United Nations on 31 July gave the green light to a possible armed intervention in Haiti.

The invasion, which would be led by the United States, would have the objective of creating conditions for the return of democracy in the Caribbean nation and the reinstatement of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Aristide was overthrown in 1991 by a military coup.

Mengual announced Arc-en-Ciel Radio has stopped transmitting its newscast to avoid problems for reporters who received threats from unidentified armed individuals, while other media directors also denounced the "pressure."

"Not only are we banned from broadcasting certain type of information that bothers (de facto rulers), but we are forced to broadcast declarations...from nonexistent groups of regime spokesmen," the owner of a media source explained.

During the authoritarian government of the Duvalier family, several radio stations decided to eliminate their newscasts to avoid becoming spokespersons for the regime.

The director of another station who asked not to be identified said authorities reprimanded him after he reported the expulsion last week of three journalists from the U.S. television program the McNeil-Lehrer Report.

Local observers have said that the whereabouts of Ernst Ocean, correspondent of Radio Tropic in Saint Marc, is still unknown. He "disappeared" after saying that voodoo ceremonies were held at the general garrison in Port-au-Prince.

According to analysts, the intimidation campaign by presumed supporters of the de facto government includes civilians whom the state media accuse of "collaborating with the enemy."

In view of the situation, the Haitian Chamber of Commerce, which has been characterized by its support for the coupist military leaders, has condemned the threats and kidnapping of journalists.

The Haitian Catholic Church today described UN Security Council Resolution 940 for an international military intervention in Haiti as "immoral."

The church said that the resolution was adopted through an irregular process and urged Haitians to get together and pray for the country for three days, from 12 to 14 August.

The Catholic Church opposes President Aristide, who is also a priest, for his position in favor of liberation theology. Only on very few occasions has the church expressed its opinion on the current situation in Haiti, and this is the first time it condemned the UN resolution.

In the vicinity of Army Headquarters and the Government Palace, "civilian" volunteers today continued their public training to prepare for a possible foreign invasion, military sources reported.

According to local radio stations, most of the "volunteers" are members of the Front for Haiti's Advance and Progress (FRAPH) and Capois La Mort, paramilitary organizations that act in complicity with the coupist military leaders.

According to diplomatic sources, the Argentine Embassy in Port-au-Prince closed its doors today because of threats received in the wake of the UN Security Council's approval of Resolution 940. Despite similar threats received by other Latin American diplomatic missions, as was rumored over the weekend, no other closings have been reported.

Today the U.S. Embassy announced the closing of an installation to process refugee requests in Cayes, 200 km southwest of Port-au-Prince, "for security reasons."

Local political analysts indicated that the measure was adopted following a demonstration in the capital a few days ago against possible international military intervention. Diplomatic spokesman Stanley Schrager indicated that the center has granted asylum to at least 800 people who hope the Cedras government will authorize their departure.

New Organization Urges Youth To Oppose Invasion

FL0908024994 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Civic and Moral Action [Action Civique et Morale] has issued a resolution of seven points aimed especially at youth. It asks Haitian youth to oppose the project of an invasion of Haiti. Let us listen to the spokesman of Civic and Moral Action, Jean-Claude Chery:

[Begin Chery recording] The United States and the so-called Security Council have no right to send troups to Haiti. The U.S. and the UN manipulate and use terrorist procedures to bring governments and the people to their

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knees. Haiti does not belong to [word indistinct] nor to the UN. Haiti has some owners. The Haitians are endowed with a lot of energy and a lot of genius to take up the challenge. Contrary to what is asserted, it is not because of our weakness, but rather because of our strength that the world of the freebooter powers forms a league against us. It is economic prosperity, work, education for all, and daily bread that are the first steps toward democracy. Democracy does not invent democracy. Democracy is not born out of democracy. The embargo that is destroying and killing everything works against democracy. Military intervention is not an answer [words indistinct]. For Civic and Moral Action, Jean-Claude Chery, writer/poet. [end recording]

Jonassaint Official Loses Job on Canadian Daily

FL0808180394 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] We learned on 7 August that Montreal's LA PRESSE daily has dismissed journalist Charles David, who went on leave without pay in May to be the Jonassaint government's foreign minister.

Assistant Publisher Claude Masson told David in a letter dated 4 August that the dismissal is effective immediately. David, who had been employed as the journalist in charge of international issues for 22 years, went on leave without pay on 17 May. Despite being granted leave without pay, management published an editorial expressing its displeasure with the journalist's decision to participate in an illegal government that is not recognized by the international community.

Masson writes: Since your departure, several events, incidents, developments, facts, and statements have occurred that have led us, under the current circumstances, to break the links of confidence and employment that unite you with the press. Masson advises that this decision could have been made in May but that (?it was hoped then that Haiti's domestic political situation would normalize). LA PRESSE management believes those hopes have vanished, especially with the regime being condemned by the international community and the United Nations.

The Union of Journalists has been seeking this decision since David's departure. Union President (Louis Falardo) said: I publicly hoped for his dismissal, and there was a consensus on that issue among the journalists.

Charles David, 53, has been granted 30 days to appeal the dismissal.

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First Meeting of Democratic Convention Takes Place

PA0808191094 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 8 Aug 94

[From the "Early Morning" newscast]

[Text] The first meeting of the National Democratic Convention taking place in Chiapas produced nothing new.

The project for the country presented by the Zapatist National Liberation Army was discussed on 7 August by the convention's four working commissions. The project calls for, among other things, the formation of a constituent congress.

Mediator Bishop Samuel Ruiz said civilian society will readopt a suitable attitude as a result of this convention.

The conclusions to be reached by the five—I correct myself—five, working commissions, will be announced on 10 August.

Salinas Hails $3 Billion in Foreign Investment

PA0908040794 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Aug 94

[From the "Evening News Panorama" newscast]

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has told businessmen that the economy is being reactivated in the second half of 1994. He also announced that $3 billion will be channeled into Mexico from overseas in the coming months, which in turn will generate jobs for Mexicans. The Mexican president said this during a meeting he held today at noon in the Manuel Avila Camacho Room at Los Pinos Presidential Residence. The session with members of Mexican business organizations was designed to discuss means of improving industrial competitiveness.

[Begin Salinas recording] The fact that commitments have been made for new peso cash investments equal to $3 billion in the coming months [words indistinct] to a more than 30 percent increase in foreign investments in the January-May period of this year over the same period last year. This 30 percent increase takes on special importance considering it comes in relation to 1993, when foreign investments grew the most ever in the history of our country. [end recording]

Under these positive and encouraging economic conditions, Salinas noted that the channeling of additional funds from overseas helps strengthen national development. At this meeting, private participation also was endorsed in efforts to improve domestic industrial competition at a time when the nation is consolidating its economic recovery through price stability and an average monthly inflation rate of 0.5 percent.

At this meeting with 10 institutions in charge of improving industrial competition, the president stressed the importance of new agencies related to metrology, patents, and brands. These agencies are intended to create competitive conditions fundamental to trade opening and globalization, which in turn will help create and secure more permanent and well-paying jobs. In this way, NAFTA is starting to produce the results of increasing production, quality, and better conditions for Mexicans.

During his participation in the session, Trade Secretary Jaime Serra Puche said the 10 institutions will be tasked with fostering technological expertise and improving the quality of domestic products.

[Begin Serra Puche recording] And now, this commitment of $3 billion, in cash [words indistinct] will allow a substantial creation of jobs for our fellow Mexicans. [end recording]

The productive sectors also will participate in these institutions, which also have a promotional nature.

Meanwhile, the Mexican businessmen expressed their commitment to the new development model, Mexico's integration into international markets, and increasing the level of competition.

In another event, President Carlos Salinas was present at the ceremony in which the land fund was signed with the Center for Indian Rights of Chiapas. The government will contribute 6 million new pesos to guarantee the funds, in addition to the 20 billion new pesos being contributed by BANRURAL [National Rural Credit Bank]. This ceremony took place in the Vincente Guerrero Room at Los Pinos.

In this way, the president has confirmed that the doors of Los Pinos are open to all Mexicans, particularly those who have less. This is one more of the agreements signed by the president of the Republic to help the Chiapas Indians acquire the financial means to purchase land as well as to generate jobs.

Like Socama [Peasant Teachers Solidarity Association], the Center for Indian Rights is an organization that has opted for peaceful means to resolve the community's problems. The president noted that the dialogue will continue to promote productive projects and services that answer the community's demands for justice. The following is President Salinas' message, which was immediately translated into an Indian dialect.

[Begin Salinas recording] This is all about obtaining land through financing, the cost of which the owners will ultimately pay. We will do this with revenues from the Guarantee Fund and Procampo [Program of Director Support for the Countryside]. This is totally within the policy of the constitutional reforms. [end recording].

Roundup of Economic Developments

PA0908035794

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic developments monitored through 8 August.

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Tourism Secretary Jesus Silva Herzog said today that approximately 10 percent of foreign investment has been channeled into the tourism sector. Silva Herzog noted that during the first quarter of 1994, the number of foreign tourists increased 7 percent while profits rose 6.7 percent. He estimated that the tourism industry will generate $4.3 billion in 1994 from foreign tourists alone. (Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Jul 94)

The National Institute of Geography, Statistics, and Data processing announced today that the May unemployment rate reached 3.2 percent among the economically active population. This organization also reported that during the same period, 86.1 percent of the country's employed population earned salaries equal to or higher than minimum wage. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2058 GMT 1 Aug 94)

For the first time in the six years of the Salinas administration, the estimated capital income of $22.2 billion for 1994 will be insufficient to make deficit payments estimated at $25.6 billion. As a result, part of the Bank of Mexico, Banxico, international reserves will be used to adjust the balance of payments. In addition, a 34-percent reduction in direct foreign investment is expected for 1994. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 1 Aug 94 p 1)

According to private sector analysts, despite the exchange rate devaluation and low domestic growth, total imports grew faster than exports during the first five months of 1994, 19.7 versus 17.3, respectively. The trade balance deficit for this period reached $7.24 billion, which represents a 26-percent increase over figures registered in 1993. Mexico's trade deficit with its leading partner, the United States, has decreased 40 percent since 1993. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 1 Aug 94 p 24)

Banxico reported yesterday that the national financial system earned 16.1 billion new pesos during the first half of 1994, which was a 3.3-percent increase over the figures in December 1993. According to Banxico, the commercial banking sector earned 11.7 billion new pesos during the same period, which represents a 3.5-percent increase. The Banxico report revealed that of the four sources of capital available to the banking sector, three registered losses and only the money market increased its balance, thus being responsible for the overall rise in the total resources captured by the commercial banking system. (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 2 Aug 94 p 43)

The federal government's internal debt has risen to 130.1728 billion new pesos during the first half of 1994, which constitutes a 2.5-percent real increase over figures registered for the first half of 1993. According to information from the Finance and Public Credit Secretariat and Banxico, this increase reflects the net debt of 6.6246 billion new pesos accumulated during the second quarter of 1994. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 2 Aug 94 p 3A)

According to Carlos Portales Cifuentes, Chilean ambassador to Mexico, the implementation of the Economic Complementation Agreement between Mexico and Chile increased trade activities between these two nations 87.4 percent from 1991 to 1993. At the end of 1993, trade activities between Chile and Mexico reached $340.5 million, and projections for 1994 are in the neighborhood of $500 million. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 2 Aug 94 p 20)

Net profits for 19 financial groups rose to 3,936,753,000 new pesos at the end of the first half of 1994, that is, they experienced a real loss of 3.9 percent compared to the same period in 1993. According to Mexican Stock Exchange figures, real benefits increased 31 percent during the first half of 1993. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 3 Aug 94 p 1)

In July 1994, prices for Mexican crude on markets abroad increased 0.94 cents over the previous month. As a result, export prices rose to an average $15.56 per barrel, its highest level since October 1992. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 3 Aug 94 p 3A)

Victor Terrones, president of the National Association of the Processing Industry, declared that the economy will grow 1.5 percent in 1994, and only 200,000 jobs will be created in Mexico. So far in 1994, the Mexican Government has contributed $19,215,232 to the various international organizations to which it belongs. This amount was allotted as follows: $8,980,498 to the United Nations; $4,196,190 to the OAS; $4,775,059 to the United Nations Office for the Preservation of Peace; and 1,263,485 in voluntary contributions to various UN international organizations, including the World Tourism Organization, GATT, and Mexico's Permanent Delegation to the EC, among others. (Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 3 Aug 94)

The presidents of Mexico and Venezuela have agreed to renew for the 14th time the San Jose Pact by means of which these two countries jointly assign 160,000 barrels of oil daily to Central American and Caribbean countries. (Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 4 Aug 94)

According to the Confederation of National Chambers of Commerce, approximately 30,000 businesses have had to close due to a lack of liquidity and uncertainty created by events during the first three months of 1994. (Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Aug 94)

The Commerce Secretariat has announced that 5 billion new pesos will be invested in Chiapas. According to Chiapas producers, this will open a new horizon for Chiapas's productive sectors. (Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 5 Aug 94)

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Trade between Canada's Quebec Province and Mexico has increased following NAFTA. That province sells Mexico airplanes, airplane parts, communication equipment, and newsprint, among other items. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 4 Aug 94 p 25)

The Commerce and Industrial Development Secretariat has decided to reestablish the "previous permission" requirement on more than 200 import items that require customs duties. (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 4 Aug 94 p 1-40)

The country's banking system experienced a significant financial slump during the first half of 1994 in comparison to the same period last year. A sample analysis shows a 16.9 percent drop in real profits. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 5 Aug 94 p 4)

The Mexican Finance Secretariat has reported that Mexico's industrial production for May 1994 increased by 3.1 percent compared with last year's production for the same month. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0740 GMT 5 Aug 94)

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El Salvador

FMLN Head Opposes Taking Part in Haitian Invasion

PA0808215094 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1230 GMT 8 Aug 94

[From the "YSU Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Jorge Shafik Handal, secretary general of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, has questioned the UN Security Council decision to allow an intervention in Haiti by U.S. troops.

On 31 July the UN Security Council gave the green light to an eventual invasion of Haiti by U.S. troops to overthrow the coupist military and permit the return of exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power.

Handal also said, however, that it is necessary to restore democracy in that Caribbean country.

[Begin Handal recording] We do not agree that the United Nations should become a tool for putting stamps on invasions in some countries for any reason.

In Haiti's case, the motive is to defend the Haitian people's democratic right to elect their president. They elected Aristide by an overwhelming majority, more than 60 percent, then the military carried out a coup there. So the motive to defend the Haitian people's rights is correct. We agree that Aristide must be returned to his post and that he must not only complete his presidential period, which is almost over, but serve the entire period for which he was elected. This is the will of the Haitian people, and it must be respected, but we believe this is something that must be done by the Haitian people with support from the international community. But this must be accomplished with the Haitian people striving in that direction, not with the Haitian people being replaced in this endeavor.

In this sense we are in favor of supporting the initiatives of the Haitian people; that is, the democratic forces that Haiti may set in motion. We are decidedly in favor of restoring President Aristide to the presidency.

We also want to say that we are also against the use of Salvadoran troops in an eventual invasion or in any other kind of operation with troops. There has been talk about some other kind of operation called humanitarian in which El Salvador reportedly would participate. We do not think our country should participate in that sort of action. [end recording]

Guatemala

Envoy to Washington on Altered U.S. Advisory

PA0808122894 Guatemala City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 5 Aug 94 p 7

[Text] Edmond Mulet, Guatemalan ambassador to Washington, said yesterday that the travel advisory on Guatemala the U.S. Government has modified will no longer have serious repercussions on the country's tourism industry, and he added that this type of advisory is also applied to certain European and Latin American countries.

The diplomat said he is pleased with the U.S. decision, because the blockade on Guatemala's main tourist attractions, such as the capital, Antigua Guatemala, Chichicastenango, and Rio Dulce, was removed.

Mulet added foreigners are only advised about certain preventive measures to ensure they do not wander into certain places far from the cities, but he added that such measures will not significantly affect visits by U.S. citizens.

In fact, Mulet said, this type of travel advisory is also in effect in Spain, France, Italy, and certain Latin American countries.

He said the damage suffered during the "critical" period should be reversed in the coming months due to the efforts of the authorities and the population in welcoming the tourists.

URNG Communique on Fulfillment of Agreements

PA0908030094 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 5 Aug 94 p 77

[Communique issued by the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) General Command on 4 August; place not given—published as a "paid advertisement"]

[Text] Each week that the Guatemalan Government fails to fulfill the points of the Overall Agreement on Human Rights worsens the credibility crisis facing the negotiations process, and this is alarming.

It is undeniable that legitimate doubts arise daily concerning the seriousness of the process and the fulfillment of the agreements that have been reached, and this cannot be ignored.

It is inadmissible that, four months after the Overall Agreement on Human Rights was signed and put into force, violations of the accord have been on the rise while terror, repressive practices, and threats are becoming more dangerous to Guatemalan society.

Should this situation not be rectified immediately, it will most certainly lead to discrediting the negotiations process, making it unfeasible and, in turn, lead to the great frustration of Guatemalan society.

Once more, the URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity] addresses domestic and international public opinion to:

DEMAND

The government of the Republic and all state institutions fulfill the Overall Agreement on Human Rights.

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As proof of political willingness, and for the negotiations to remain valid, the government should demonstrate within one month that it is meeting the basic requirements established in this agreement.

1. The government should fulfill, without delay, the basic commitment of implementing an extensive information campaign on a nationwide level—and one which includes the main Indian languages—regarding the context of the specific rights guaranteed by the agreement. It is the government's obligation to do this immediately and without pretexts in an explicit and objective manner.

2. It should guarantee the end of the harassment of refugees who have returned, as well as the displaced CRP [expansion unknown], respecting the human rights of this community and its double nature of being citizens of Guatemala and its most vulnerable sector. Likewise, it should assure and fulfill the agreements already established on the returned refugees.

3. It should definitely suspend forced military recruitment, a practice that continues and is well-known to the public. A new draft bill on military service, within the framework and principles of the Overall Agreement on Human Rights, can no longer be delayed.

4. It is the government's obligation to guarantee the security of the promoters and members of human rights organizations. In light of the serious threats and repressive actions that the people's movement have suffered over the past several months and that have claimed the lives of several of its members, the government must take strong and effective measures to prevent the launching of terror against the rest of society.

5. The government is obliged to fulfill the commitment assumed in the Overall Agreement on Human Rights to not create or activate the Civilian Self-Defense Patrols. Above all, however, it cannot allow or endorse intimidation and threatening campaigns that these units have carried out recently under the protection of the impunity they enjoy. This should be done regardless of requests made by the ombudsman for human rights. Moreover, not one step has been taken to demonstrate its willingness to do this.

6. Since the signing of the Overall Agreement on Human Rights, criminal actions of an undeniable political nature have increased. The lack of speedy, honest, and efficient investigations, in addition to deceitful testimony to the high authorities concerning the criminal actions that have taken place during this time, have served to cover up these actions. This violates, and outrageously so, the agreement's point that makes reference to the nonoperation of illegal security and clandestine repressive corps.

Without waiving the requirement to fulfill the agreement, the URNG demands the government immediately comply with the previous points.

We demand timely fulfillment. It is the government's full responsibility for expeditious compliance. This is the only way to return credibility and feasibility to the process.

REQUESTS

Respectfully from the United Nations and its Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, the establishment of an international Verification Commission as soon as possible as agreed upon in the Overall Agreement on Human Rights.

The failure to implement this measure has caused significant uncertainty within Guatemalan society, seriously affecting the credibility of the results of the negotiations process and making the population face serious risks.

As part of the corresponding agreement on the Verification Commission, Dr. Jean Arnault should have been officially appointed an international member of this commission while the corresponding mechanisms to initiate the preparatory work should have been completed.

These appointments are needed expeditiously considering that, as indicated by the media, a campaign has been waged to erase evidence and intimidate witnesses.

DEMANDS

From the member-nations of the Group of Friends, in their capacity as witnesses to the agreements, their extremely valuable intervention to support Guatemalan society by lending their good offices to ensure that minimum and essential measures are implemented as soon as possible.

SUMMONS

Guatemalan society as a whole, without exception, to organize its representative institutions in an effort that they actively mobilize and go on record to help guarantee the fulfillment of these unrenounceable and legitimate points.

Meanwhile, the URNG General Command declares it is willing to continue the negotiations process after these minimum requirements are met.

[Signed] URNG General Command

[Dated] 4 August 1994

Honduras

Reina Cited on Moral Revolution, Air Force Probe

PA0908045294 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 8 Aug 94 p 6

[Text] President Carlos Roberto Reina last night said the moral revolution will reach every corner of the country and that, in the case of the Honduran Air Force (FAH), efforts will continue until the truth is known.

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Regarding the suspension of Communications Director Carlos Calderon, Reina said he wants to be certain of everything involved in the case before he passes judgment. Reina said he believes the truth will reveal the intentions of his government in all areas and that he cannot allow any doubts to linger. This is why Calderon has accepted his suspension and investigation, as a gentleman should.

The president said he was unaware of anyone in his government being interested in removing Calderon from his post—something that Calderon has suggested—and he added that the media have been asked to look into the rumor. Reina also denied the Calderon investigation is a smokescreen to prevent a thorough investigation into the FAH. "It is a real investigation, and I expect it will reveal the whole truth," Reina said.

Regarding the fact that five officials in his government have resigned and that he could be isolated if the trend persists, Reina said he has immediately replaced them, adding that this is line with the government's moral revolution. He said every public official must know that he should be very careful when handling public funds.

Nicaragua

Police: Hijacker Belongs to No Political Group

PA0808202694 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 8 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Sergio Cruz]

[Excerpts] Nicaraguan National Police Director Fernando Caldera reported yesterday that the hijacker of the COPA airplane, Angel Alberto Salguera Nunez, does not belong to any Salvadoran political organization and that his plan was to hijack the airplane to Mexico where he would have asked the Netherlands or Australian Embassy for political asylum. [passage omitted]

Salguera told journalists, meanwhile: "I felt threatened in El Salvador. I only want security." He revealed he was attacked by Salvadoran guards some months ago and received death threats.

FROC Denies EPS Reports of Criminal Plot

PA0908044794 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 7 Aug 94 pp 1, 8

[Report by Martha Marina Gonzalez and Jorge Katin—passages within italics as published]

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Leonel Martinez, chief of the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] 1st Command, has reported an alleged plot to kidnap producers, murder selected political party leaders, rob banks, and loot businesses.

At a news conference, the military chief said leaders of the Peasant-Worker Revolutionary Front (FROC), including former Major Victor Manuel Gallegos, a.k.a. *Pedrito El Hondureno*, are plotting to create disorder to prompt a rebellion.

Meanwhile, Gallegos denied the Army statements, saying that behind the reports from EPS leaders in Esteli there exists "a plan to hunt down FROC members and a campaign aimed at laying the groundwork for my elimination."

According to the Army, the FROC plan includes the looting of the mayoral office warehouses, the Social Action Ministry (MAS), and the Economico and La Segovia supermarkets and other shopping centers.

Lt. Col. Martinez pointed out that robberies of the Pueblo Nuevo and Condega Bank branches "are not excluded from this plan, and to prove it, the leader of the Condega assault is a FROC member, identified as Juan Rodas, who had taken advantage of an amnesty in 1993."

Pedro El Hondureno said Rodas was expelled from the FROC months ago because of his criminal activities and that police authorities are aware of this, adding that this is why this report is just part of another scheme.

Robbers With Vast Experience

Martinez, along with Esteli Police Investigations Chief Jorge Almendarez, reported that members of the FROC and the RN [National Resistance] participated in the robbery of the Pueblo Nuevo Bank. Four of them were arrested: Jonas Arauz, Luis Emilio Martinez Rivera, Juan Francisco Obregon Gutierrez, and Pedro Hernandez Olivas.

Almendarez underscored that, according to authorities, the robbers usually meet hours before the assaults, and because of their proficiency, it is very difficult for security organizations to learn of the criminal activities in a timely fashion.

The military chiefs reported that some of the rifles used in the assault on the Pueblo Nuevo Bank were used in Somotillo, where they tried to rob another bank.

Gallegos Does Not Even Know Them

According to statements by inmates Carlos Alfaro Vilchez, who is also a FROC member, and Jaime de Jesus and Santiago Zeledon—both of whom have been linked to the La Concordia Bank assault—this action was planned in Esteli.

"I do not even know who these individuals are," said Gallegos, who complained the Army is blaming the FROC "for every crime committed in the northern region."

Martinez added that the criminal and political activities of these individuals are connected, and he did not rule

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out that the signs reading "Down with the Government," which have appeared in a number of places, are part of the destabilization plan.

Military authorities are concerned about the events taking place, and according to one official, "we have taken a number of measures to thwart these plans, but if they happen, we will act resolutely."

Who Are the Members of *Cobra 93*?

According to Gallegos, the National Police are participating in joint operations with the Army "to legalize the hunt for peasants."

Pedrito el Hondureno challenged the Army officers to hold a news conference similar to the one held on 6 August to make public the names of the members of the group known as *Cobra 93* and to whom they report.

"I will make public the details of this organization, but the Police and the Army should do it," stressed Gallegos.

According to the FROC chief, the communities most affected by the Army are El Chaguito, La Fraternidad, and the outskirts of Pueblo Nuevo.

"From this moment on, I am holding the Army chiefs accountable for any attempt against my life or the lives of my companeros; I nave no doubts whatsoever this is a plot aimed at eliminating me," said Gallegos, adding that he will notify the international human rights organizations.

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Argentina

Judge's Evidence in AMIA Case Implicates Iranians

PY0908011094 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2149 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 8 Aug (NA)—A source close to the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association [AMIA] inquest revealed on 8 August that Federal Judge Juan Jose Galeano has evidence that proves officials from the Iranian Embassy in Argentina were implicated in the bloody attack on the AMIA headquarters. The aforementioned source further reported that Judge Galeano will officially bring charges against them in the upcoming hours and submit the records to the Supreme Court.

The same source stated that these charges would be made against Iranian diplomats who are at present in Argentina as well as against two who left the country shortly before the terrorist attack perpetrated on 18 July.

Judge Galeano has allegedly settled the issue involving three Argentines who are allegedly implicated in the attack to varying degrees.

It was leaked today that they would be released for "lack of merit."

Once Judge Galeano makes a ruling on the case, he will submit the records to the Supreme Court so that it may settle the problem of jurisdiction on account of the fact that some of those implicated in the case enjoy diplomatic immunity.

Some 200 members of the Jewish community in Argentina, including Ruben Beraja, the president of the Delegation of Argentine-Jewish Associations, staged a demonstration outside the courthouse at midday today to demand a speedy clearing up of the attack. [passage omitted]

Judge Galeano might disclose on 9 August his decision concerning the situation of Carlos Tellerdin, who is at present the only detainee in the case involving the AMIA bombing.

Tellerdin was the last buyer of the Renault Traffic van that was used as a car-bomb in the attack, and the one who asked Ariel Nitzcaner and Marcelo Jouce, two mechanics, to repair the van.

Nitzcaner and Jouce were released on 5 August by order of Judge Galeano. [passage omitted]

Tellerdin testified that, after Jouce and Nitzcaner repaired the van, he sold it to a person named Ramon Martinez, who allegedly used a false name.

The description of the person who contended he was Ramon Martinez coincides with that of the person who reportedly purchased the Ford F-100 pick-up used in the attack on the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires on 17 March 1992. [passage omitted]

Vice Foreign Minister Views Ties With Haiti

PY0908012194 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2201 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Vice Foreign Minister Fernando Petrella said today that relations between Argentina and the de facto Haitian regime headed by General Raoul Cedras "do not exist" and "in fact, official communications" are directed to deposed President Jean Bertrand Aristide.

The official emphasized that "relations with Mr. Aristide's government are the ones that exist." Petrella confirmed that the diplomatic missions of most countries "are starting to leave" Port-au-Prince.

Petrella said "there is still margin for negotiating UN Security Council Resolution 940" authorizing an invasion of Haiti to reinstall the Aristide government.

The vice foreign minister stressed the existence of "a series of initiatives allowing Mr. Cedras and his government to leave power peacefully, which encourages us considerably."

"Resolution 940 does not establish a deadline, but it is being anticipated that it will be implemented in early or mid-September. In consequence, there is still a broad margin for negotiation," Petrella said.

The official said that "Resolution 940 is mandatory for all countries and anticipates very harsh measures to reestablish democracy in Haiti."

Petrella said Argentine Ambassador to Haiti Carlos Carrasco exited the country "at the right time."

Ambassador Carrasco informed us that he had fulfilled all the tasks he had been commissioned to carry out so far, Petrella told a radio station.

Carrasco and his family, various officials, and a group of journalists who worked in that area of conflict returned to the country this morning. [passage omitted]

The Argentine Navy Frigate Drumond, which will depart for the Caribbean the day after tomorrow, is already prepared to replace the Guerrico, which is participating in the naval blockade of Haiti.

The Drumond will sail from Puerto Belgrano. It is a missile-carrying frigate build in France in the 1970's, and will arrive in Central America in approximately 20 days.

Ambassador Leaves Via Dominican Republic

PY0808162794 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2357 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Aug (NA)—Foreign Vice Minister Fernando Petrella reported today that a group of 18 Argentine citizens who remained in Haiti, including Ambassador Carlos Carrasco and four journalists, managed to leave the country and are in Dominican Republic territory.

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Carrasco telephoned Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella and confirmed that the 18 Argentine citizens are safe in Dominican territory.

The diplomatic personnel had been receiving threats over the past few days following the stance taken by Argentina, the only Latin American country that approved sending troops to the island.

The delegation, which remained in Haiti until today, had been waiting since 4 August for safe-conduct passes to leave the island. Apostolic Nuncio Lorenzo Baldisseri's mediation was required to obtain the passes.

The Argentine Government decided to "reflectively pause" to review the way in which it will participate in a possible invasion of the Caribbean island to overthrow the regime of General Raoul Cedras.

It seems the strong interventionist drive that attracted top-level government circles has subsided, and a decision has been made to take advantage of the "long one and a half months" before the possible invasion to review all details of the government's stance.

In remarks to the "All the News" cable television program, Petrella announced that "the government is reviewing all alternatives to solve" the Haitian conflict.

The foreign vice minister reported that Minister Di Tella participated "on 4 and 5 August" in drafting "the Venezuelan proposal" for a peaceful solution to the crisis, a proposal that has reportedly been rejected by the United States.

Petrella commented on efforts by Dante Caputo—a former Argentine foreign minister during the administration of Raul Alfonsin and current OAS and UN representative for the Haitian conflict—and by UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

Petrella noted: "Ghali contacted U.S. and Haitian authorities this morning to achieve a quick and negotiated solution to the crisis."

The 18 Argentine citizens, including diplomats, journalists, and residents in Haiti, this afternoon left Port-au-Prince, the Haitian capital, aboard seven cars with diplomatic license plates. They managed to cross, without any problems, the Dominican Republic border.

The Argentine group received the invaluable cooperation of Apostolic Nuncio Baldisseri and a Dominican diplomat to leave Haiti.

Petrella noted that the Vatican representative to Haiti obtained the safe-conduct passes for the Argentine diplomats while Di Tella negotiated the permits for the four journalists.

[Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish at 1116 GMT on 8 Aug 94, adds: "Argentine Ambassador to Haiti Carlos Carrasco and the journalists who were covering the situation" "arrived at the Ezeiza international airport this morning.

["The plane arrived from Miami shortly before 0800, and Carrasco confirmed that some Argentines remained in the Dominican Republic, but most of them decided they would return.

["Carrasco refused to make any remarks of a political nature because he first must report to President Carlos Menem."]

Opposition 'Mounting' To Involvement in Haiti

PY0808221494 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 8 Aug 94 p 2

[Text] [NA-DYN]—Public opposition is mounting to the idea of sending Argentine troops to Haiti, an opposition which even includes Buenos Aires Cardinal-Archbishop Antonio Quarracino.

An opinion poll in the mass circulation daily CLARIN yesterday showed 82.3 percent of respondents opposing the participation of Argentine troops in any invasion while only 14.4 percent were in favour. The poll was taken in the Federal Capital.

Argentina is the only Latin American country to join the United States in responding positively to a United Nations resolution clearing the way for military intervention to oust Haiti's military rulers. This position was consistent with Argentina's pro-Washington stance during the Gulf War.

But in the latter part of last week the government had already started to backtrack, saying it would wait for congressional clearance of the move. And on Saturday Cardinal Quarracino forthrightly said: "I hope our Congress will refuse to let Argentines intervene in Haiti."

Even the Armed Forces registered little enthusiasm with a military source saying that it would not be easy to find 600 volunteers for the mission.

Meanwhile the few Argentines in the Caribbean island state are on the way home. Both Argentine Ambassador Carlos Carrasco and a three-man Channel 13 television crew are expected back in Buenos Aires today.

Carrasco and 19 other Argentines were able to enter the neighbouring Dominican Republic yesterday thanks to the efforts of the Vatican, Santo Domingo's Embassy in Port-au-Prince and the Argentine Foreign Ministry. They will be boarding a homebound American Airlines flight in Miami today.

Editorial Lauds Foreign Policy 'Milestone'

PY0608034994 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 3 Aug 94 p 10

[Editorial: "Argentina and Haiti"]

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[Text] The lifted hand of the Argentine ambassador in the UN vote that authorized the multinational operation in Haiti is an important milestone in the history of our foreign policy. The dispatch "within 15 days" of a unit of 600 soldiers to the island must have the prior approval of Congress, and it is foreseen that the debate will be long and fierce. The most pronounced opposition will come from the same sector of congressmen that 30 years ago refused to agree—and obtained support in its opposition—to the sending of forces to Santo Domingo [Dominican Republic] to counter the influence of the Soviet Union, which at the time was very blatant, in the internal affairs of that country. Fidel Castro had installed himself some years before in Cuba, with the well-known and disastrous results of what are now 35 years—a period of time that will not only give him a place in the almanac, but will also, due to his affinity with the area of regimes of force, marry him to the "saviors of the fatherland" (from which he would later save himself, [Argentine intellectual and father of the constitution Juan Bautista] Alberdi stated) reaching from Mexico to our latitudes.

The policy of neutrality that was observed by our country for several decades had not, until a short time ago, been corrected, and neither had its opinionated provincialism and oblique view of a world that has gone through changes been corrected. Regarding this viewpoint, its advocates at times resort to the "ideas of Alberdi," which is a manifest error. In his correspondence from Paris to distinguished personalities of our past, he grandiosely explained what neutrality meant for him, and he always flatly denied that it had any relationship with disarmament and the crossing of arms.

The government has been right in not brushing aside an episode that concerns the health of America's democracy, even though we know that it has not been, is not, and will not be the last one that may attract our attention in the interests of the common good. For a long time Argentina's political leadership made out in such a way that it ignored the nature of problems and the circumstances that encompassed them, problems of which our intellectual and political progeny could not have been unaware. Undoubtedly its supporters obtained good electoral results, but at the cost of our credibility in the world, especially at the time of the birth of the great supranational organizations, such as the United Nations in San Francisco. We arrived at the final meeting of its creation when, it was said at that time, "the bus was about to depart." The same happened with our participation, even though it was symbolic, in World War II. We declared against the Axis (Germany, Italy, and Japan) a few days before the conflict ended. At the same time we were the mockery of and for a time repudiated by the world, which had shed its blood in the harsh confrontation with the Nazis, and of Europe, which although in ruins had already begun its reconstruction.

This government has wiped that old history from the place it was written on the blackboard. And this must be pointed out, because the gesture of integrity that it is carrying out today will place some topics in their right place, within common sense, and in proper order in the heads of quite a few Argentines.

Menem Speaks at Agricultural Fair 30 Jul

PY0808201094 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 31 Jul 94 p 18

["Text" of a speech by Argentine President Carlos Menem at the opening ceremony of the 108th Agricultural and Industrial Fair of the Argentine Rural Society, SRA, in Palermo District, Buenos Aires, on 30 July]

[Text] Many comments have been made over the last few days about whether I would attend the SRA opening ceremony. There has been much speculation about whether it would be advisable for me to come, or whether this or that would occur if I did. Despite these comments and speculations—some of which were ill-intentioned—the president of the Republic is here today to open the 108th International Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition. The president of the Republic is here, as has been his wont over the last few years. The president of the Republic is here because we live in a democracy, and in a democracy the president must appear before his people without making distinctions between those who applaud him and those who criticize him. Your friend is here because dialogue and communication are the very essence of democracy and of a life lived in freedom.

Ladies and gentlemen, the words that I uttered at this very place shortly after I took office in 1989 spring to mind.

I have vivid memories of the weird atmosphere—a mixture of distress and hope—that reigned here on that day. It reflected the anguish of 30 million people in one of the most difficult times I recall in Argentine history.

Despite the prevailing atmosphere, this friend of yours flew the banner of hope, and the people of the rural areas—who understood perhaps before anybody else the transformation and reforms that the country needed—took up the challenge and disseminated that message to the four winds.

When at present we take stock of the problems that afflict us, when we honestly enumerate the things that did not work and that we wanted to change, and when those who have a frail memory venture to say that "we have reached the end of the line," it is then that in an act of sincere reflection we must reply that what we should never reach is the point when we wish to go back to those past days.

The anguish that a mere recollection of those days inflicts on us leads us to a greater appreciation of the present, despite all its shortcomings.

We may disagree, and argue time and time again about the future, but we will always be of one mind about the fact that the future can only be built on the basis of the current economic order.

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We have a stable currency. We can now plan ahead. We have made great strides in the deregulation of the economy, with the resultant market freedom and openness. We have put an end to discrimination against the people of the rural areas through a uniform and equitable tax policy for all production sectors. All this undoubtedly constitutes the foundation of a new country. We have not yet reached paradise, but we are certainly out of hell.

We had no sooner pegged our currency to the dollar, made strides in curbing inflation, and consolidated the deregulation and privatization processes than the constraints and structural problems of the Argentine economy in general, and its agriculture in particular, became increasingly manifest.

We realized that our traditional comparative advantages were not enough to compete in subsidy-distorted markets that were in the grips of increasingly demanding consumers.

Words like "competitiveness" and "retrofitting" became buzzwords as we became aware that it was time to change.

These ideas took root in Argentine society to such an extent that more than 1,500 groups comprising more than 20,000 producers were set up in less than a year, thanks to the Federal Program for Productive Retooling "Rural Change."

Still, retooling not only entails incorporating new technology, entering into partnership, and having access to credit. It is essential to establish the basis for new formulas pertaining to competitiveness, quality, and origin identification, which are basic aspects to marketing products.

This is why the executive branch will submit a labels [denominacion] bill to Congress. Besides, as we believe that producers must join the marketing cycle and have direct access to markets, this administration will make it possible for producers to participate in the Hilton quota.

In principle, the quota allotted for these kinds of projects totals 1,200 tonnes [as published], as the agriculture secretary has just mentioned. Nevertheless, if this experience proves satisfactory and demand justifies it, we intend to substantially increase that quantum.

The action undertaken by this administration, with your, the producers, cooperation, is enabling Argentina to recover inaccessible markets for its meat.

Within this context the steps taken to place 20,000 tonnes of fresh beef cuts in the United States are well under way.

We are well aware that Argentina's success is inextricably linked with the success of the agricultural sector. If agriculture flourishes, so does the Argentine Republic. And yet, in my capacity as president of the Republic and as president of all Argentines, I must abide by strict and equitable criteria for the distribution of efforts and benefits.

While respecting this balance, we are announcing the following measures: The monthly advance payment of income tax by agricultural producers has been eliminated; withholding of VAT [value-added tax] collection on the different categories of bovine cattle has been reduced, while the one on swine, wool, milk by-products, and fruits will soon be implemented; and foot-and-mouth disease vaccines and other activities linked to the control of this disease will be exempted from paying VAT. This will be implemented by means of a bill that I will sign in the forthcoming days.

We are submitting to Congress a bill on the pardoning of freelance workers' social security debts, thus waiving the contributions for the periods that were not made. Agricultural cooperatives will be exempted from the payment of the special contribution on capitals stipulated in Act 23427, which left them out of competition.

From now onward there will be a fair social security tax system for de facto companies, many times cottage industries, which according to the new categorization made some months ago had to pay excessive taxes. We have settled this issue, and they will now pay taxes befitting the bracket they belong to, namely small-scale enterprises.

Besides the lines of credit available at present, the agricultural sector will have at its disposal additional credits amounting to 1 billion pesos at low interest rates by means of rural mortgage certificates, which are yet to be disbursed, and special mortgage certificates, which will provide 50 million pesos in credit.

As banks have at their disposal unlimited funds abroad for credit lines for the prefinancing of exports, the latter will be used more regularly to provide short-term financing for producers.

An agricultural guarantee fund of 100 million pesos will be created to cover the needs of producers whose current guarantees are not sufficient, in a supplementary form, to obtain the amount of credit that they need.

In this way a line of credit amounting to 500 million pesos will be offered to promote exports; a new structure has been implemented increasing refunds for manufactured goods of agricultural origin; and semi-finished products and raw materials will be refunded at the same level as industrial products.

Ladies and gentlemen: Five years ago we struck a strategic alliance with the agricultural sector, and day by day we have demonstrated our will to maintain and strengthen it, but the international situation has not been favorable for us. While all others implement subsidies, we can only outdo ourselves at the expense of improving our efficiency and quality.

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I know it is not an easy task, but I do know that it is the only way.

You can be absolutely certain that this president will, as he has done so up to now, do everything that is possible to support your daily efforts, because he does not envision a country turning its back on the interior or demonstrating indifference to the man of the soil. The producer is the main protagonist in this story, and this is something, despite all the difficulties, that we always have in our minds.

More than anyone this president would at this time like to be able to announce magic measures that would immediately resolve all the problems, but one does not govern with magic. One governs with politics, and politics is the art of the possible.

You know very well, Mr. President, that we have had to fight together on many occasions in facing the presidents and authorities of the main countries subsidizing their production; that we have visited the European Parliament, lifting our voices of protest against those subsidy policies that cause us so much harm; and we have achieved something, beginning with what you have stated regarding the Uruguayan Round of the GATT talks.

We will continue to work together, struggling for productivity. We will continue to fight hard for work. I will not lower—we will not lower—our arms, because we are convinced that these limits will be understood, and sure that we are building the bases for an Argentina for the 21st century, of an Argentina where the culture of production and work will prevail. I formally open the 108th Livestock, Agriculture, and Industry Show.

Mr. President: I cannot but express my thanks as president of the nation, and as just another citizen, for all the effort that you have placed in the tasks with which the Argentine Rural Society has charged you over the past 4 years.

In an embrace, I wish to give you the most cordial welcome, and tell you that you will always have a true friend at your side. Thank you very, very much, and may God bless you.

Problems Plaguing Provinces Discussed

Governors' Views

94SM0419A Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 3 Jul 94 pp 6-7

[Article by Dario G. D'Atri]

[Text] The cycle is unbreakable. The crisis in the regional economies has become the topic of conversation in political and economic circles. The federal march that was staged on Wednesday by multisectoral opposition groups, the governors' demands for more funding, the interminable protests by trade associations in the north, the tractor and truck blockades in Rio Negro and Mendoza, the metalworkers' strike in Tierra del Fuego, the assemblies of farming groups in La Pampa—all are different but clear symptoms of the same problem: Although the national budgets are in the black, the interior economies are going through hard times.

Gathered at the great Santa Fe showcase of the Constitutional Convention, the governors, in demanding a constitutional provision guaranteeing revenue sharing, renewed a debate that reveals the structural crisis in the economies of the interior. Although in these political times it is not feasible to launch a full-scale campaign of dissent, the governors are beginning to suspect that the idea of an integrated country enjoying harmonious development has been buried by the reality that Argentina is traveling in two or more lanes, with some provinces in the fast lane, some in the middle lane, and some in the slow lane.

Diagnosis of the Crisis

Economists' diagnosis of regional production coincides with that presented by most provincial governors: decapitalization, negative earnings, bank liabilities that are difficult to absorb, and a lack of financing for the factors of production. Governor Horacio Massaccesi of Rio Negro, who belongs to the Radical Civic Union (UCR), sums up the situation: "The rise in energy costs, burdensome interest rates, the lack of assistance from national banks, the obvious lack of profits, and the lack of a containment policy regarding economic and social sectors that want to produce but cannot do so without a framework of government protection is creating a situation that we could describe as a veritable bottleneck."

Corrientes Governor Raul Romero Feris of the Liberal Autonomous Pact (PAL) agrees: "The decapitalization of the regional economies continues, and there is also another problem that is even more serious: the lack of financing, of credit at rates commensurate with the current inflation rate in Argentina."

From the point of view of a specialist, Alejandro Rofman of the National Council for Scientific and Technological Research (Conicet), who is also director of the Center for Urban and Regional Studies, states that the economic problems of the regions can be divided into six categories: 1) the preeminence of *minifundios* and the decapitalization of small-scale production; 2) abusive and exploitative middlemen; 3) no regulation to defend domestic prices; 4) a lack of cheap credit; 5) a lack of widely available and appropriate technical assistance; and 6) the absence of *in situ* industrialization processes.

In addition, there are governors such as Jose Estabillo (MPF) [expansion not given] of Tierra del Fuego, who directly criticizes the terms imposed by the Convertibility Plan: "Today the industrialists in my province prefer to import finished goods rather than manufacture them. The economic model does not contribute to the rapid development of activity in Tierra del Fuego."

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Although he defends Cavallo, Governor Eduardo Duhalde of the Justicialist Party (PJ) also agrees that "we are not going through the best of times" with regard to the issue of open borders. Carlos Reutemann (PJ) is among those who warn: "We must be very careful about letting in imported goods. In a savagely competitive world, the sectors of production need time to adapt, like what the automotive industry has gotten."

Meanwhile, Romero Feris adds: "The problem includes a policy that takes macroeconomic issues into account, but there are things that are falling by the wayside, such as the regional economies. The figures do not reflect the plight of regional producers; Cavallo should pay close attention to those economies." From Neuquen, Jorge Sobisch says, "There are no clearly defined measures to deal with the inequalities and the peculiarities of each region in the country, especially Patagonia."

How To Get Out of the Hole

Beyond the diagnoses, the governors do not always agree on the solutions. Nestor Kirchner (PJ) of Santa Cruz declares: "This stability process should contain a strong element of economic growth, of federalized investment." Ruben Marin (PJ) of La Pampa demands "a political decision that will make up for the distance from centers of consumption. We need financing to reverse the situation of the regional productive apparatuses, because if we cannot continue growing, the only thing we will achieve is to continue sending a stream of migrants to Buenos Aires."

Tucuman Governor Ramon Ortega (PJ) chimes in with the demands for promotion: "There must be a policy that provides real incentives for productive investment, so that an investor will not think it makes no difference whether he sets up in the port or in Tucuman, 1,300 kilometers away from Buenos Aires." Santa Fe Governor Carlos Reutemann (PJ) demands "funds that will make it possible to come to the aid of the sectors that want to reorganize." He also warns: "We must provide a framework to make productive investment possible, but the provinces are not in a position to undertake financing plans on their own."

The governor of Neuquen, Sobisch, wants "effective and real access to credit for enterprises that meet the region's needs; export promotion; progress on multilateral foreign trade treaties; and an equitable distribution of national public spending throughout the country in order to create an attractive infrastructure for productive investment."

Massaccesi of Rio Negro sums up the needs of the regional economies in four points: "1) medium- and long-term credit for the modernization of production in sectors that are truly committed to a productive model; 2) no across-the-board costs or rates applied to the entire country; 3) encouragement of exports, not through devaluation, but through differential incentives for each sector; and 4) as a general rule, any development plan should be devised with the participation of the productive base—it is not enough to take out ads publicizing the nation's mortgage bonds."

Aside from the provincial governments' repeated demands for modernization and adjustment, the key question is which provinces are in a position to reorganize their productive apparatuses and join the race to establish themselves in world markets. The governors who see a country traveling in different lanes know that not everyone will reach that goal.

[Box, p 6]

Buenos Aires: Eduardo Duhalde

"The problem of the regional economies is one of financing. Clearly, it is the government that must promote financial reform, something that is not easy in a free system. The national or provincial government may possibly provide funding to subsidize rates, but that depends on the economy of each province."

[Box, p 6]

Rio Negro: Horacio Massaccesi

"The lack of a containment policy regarding economic and social sectors that want to produce but cannot do so without a framework of government protection is creating a situation that we could describe as a veritable bottleneck."

[Box, p 6]

Corrientes: Raul Romero Feris

"The two ways to bring about a regional renewal are for the national government to lower national taxes, as has been done in the provinces, and to promote the financing necessary for people to recapitalize and create an ideal mechanism for working."

[Box, p 6]

Tucuman: Ramon Ortega

"There must be a policy that provides real incentives for productive investment, so that an investor will not think it makes no difference whether he sets up in the port or in Tucuman, 1,300 kilometers away from Buenos Aires."

[Box, p 7]

Santa Fe: Carlos Reutemann

"In the provinces we do not have the necessary tools to undertake the financing plans that are needed. The province is not in a position to set up a subsidy fund for producers."

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[Box, p 7]

La Pampa: Ruben Marin

"If we cannot continue growing, the only thing we will achieve is to continue sending a stream of migrants to Buenos Aires. We will have fewer and fewer inhabitants, and we will have to contribute more and more to the interurban fund."

[Box, p 7]

Neuquen: Jorge Sobisch

"There are no clearly defined measures to deal with the inequalities and the peculiarities of each region in the country, especially Patagonia."

[Box, p 7]

Tierra del Fuego: Jose Estabillo

"Today our industrialists prefer to import finished goods rather than manufacture them. That is dangerous when we have a major group of workers tied to those sectors that prefer to import."

[Box, p 7]

Santa Cruz: Nestor Kirchner

"I envision three countries: the one in the north, with its problems of feudal leaderships, the decline of its regional economies, and the bankruptcy of the culture of labor; the country of the center, where the money and most of the economic activity can be found, but where there is a problem of great concentrated urban masses who demand constant assistance; and the country of the periphery, which is Patagonia."

Budgets in Dispute

94SM0419B Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 3 Jul 94 pp 8-9

[Article by Dario G. D'Atri]

[Text] Although the Economy Ministry contends that the provinces receive more funding than the national government, governors are reluctant to implement the massive adjustments that are being required. They want special treatment in view of the sharp disparities among provinces.

While many think the governors' complaints and demands sound like a broken record, the Economy Ministry continues the usual pressure on the provinces to get them to make fiscal adjustments, rationalize (discharge) government and municipal personnel, lower the tax burden, and improve administrative management.

The provinces' recent crusade for revenue sharing drew an immediate response from Economy, which published a report titled "Structural Changes in the Relationship Between the Central Government and the Provinces," in which it maintains that there was a 53-percent increase in the national funds transferred to the provinces between 1991 and 1993, while regional government spending in 1993 was 74.6 percent higher than the average for the 1983-90 period.

Cavallo's ministry is hitting hard with a new approach to the demand for the provincial adjustment: "There had better be an improvement in the social efficiency of provincial and municipal spending." Concerning the qualitative components of spending, Economy contends that the structural reasons for provincial public spending remain virtually unchanged. Provincial government payrolls grew by 50 percent between 1983 and 1992.

In the interior, however, governors privately regard government jobs as virtual unemployment insurance. As Corrientes Governor Raul Romero Feris told CLARIN, "It is true that the provinces have excessive payrolls, but no one wants to get rid of people because it would cause a very serious social problem. Until the economic structure of the country's interior is modified, we will not be able to find jobs for former civil servants in the private sector."

According to the Latin American Economic Research Foundation (FIEL), 200,000 people would be out in the street, which would boost the unemployment rate by 1.5 percent, if the provincial governments reduced their payrolls to 1983 levels. The growth of government employment in the provinces can properly be interpreted as a decline in private employment.

By way of response, the government has placed all its bets on the so-called Federal Pact for Employment, Production, and Growth, signed on 12 August 1993. This is a series of guidelines for the provinces to follow in liberalizing their tax structures and thus improving conditions for production.

The problem facing the provinces is similar to that confronting public service customers when they get a card saying, "Pay now, protest later." The costs of repealing taxes are immediate, while the increase in productive activity, and consequently in employment, is a promise.

The rationalization of provincial government is not the only key to economic development, in many people's opinion. In its Blue Book on the Provinces, the General Economic Federation warns: "There is no one-to-one ratio between fiscal adjustment and economic dynamism. There are poor provinces that are frankly moving backward, but have dealt with their 'fiscal duties' properly.... The provinces that are not dynamic may or may not carry out the fiscal adjustment, but that will not give them the dynamic they need."

The adjustment continues to pose difficult dilemmas. The national government alleges that if the provinces make the adjustments, privatize their enterprises, and lower their taxes, a rain of capital will turn hardpan into fertile ground. In the provinces, the governors say curtly, "I have already made an adjustment," while they calculate which straw will be the one to break the camel's back and spark a social uprising.

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The Rich and the Poor—Per Capita Gross Product, 1989—National Average Index = 100

National average	100
Federal capital	250
Catamarca	80
Cordoba	82
Corrientes	84
Chaco	37
Entre Rios	85
Formosa	48
Jujuy	71
La Pampa	129
La Rioja	93
Misiones	57
Neuquen	195
Rio Negro	131
Salta	60
San Juan	70
Santa Cruz	185
Santa Fe	98
Santiago del Estero	40
Tucuman	69
Buenos Aires	86

Source: Compiled by CLARIN based on data from federal agencies.

Bankrupt Farmers, Unemployment

94SM0419C Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 3 Jul 94 p 10

[Article by Dario G. D'Atri]

[Text] The waves of migration from the country to the city are a natural consequence of the crisis that has hit regional production and the intensive agricultural *minifundios*. The road that begins at the small rural farms' inability to maintain themselves ends at higher unemployment statistics.

The plight of small rural holdings is pathetic. Falling international prices and subsidies for farmers in other countries combine to wipe out farmers' profits, while the decapitalization of the *minifundios* is condemning them to extinction. What used to be a source of employment and support for entire families has now become a wasteland that is driving people out of the countryside and into the city, where they take up residence in overcrowded suburbs and bring down the price of labor.

According to the latest national farm census, the nearly 200,000 *minifundios* account for 47.3 percent of all agriculture-livestock holdings. In terms of persons employed, including family members, these 200,000 farms account for approximately 1 million jobs. The question raised by the critical diagnosis of this type of production is: What will happen to these people?

Given the limited specific weight of *minifundio* production (20 percent of the gross agricultural product), the problem ceases to be an economic one and becomes a tough social predicament that has the provincial administrations tearing out their hair.

Out of Work—Average Unemployment Rate 8.7%

Lower than Average (less than 7%)		About Average (between 7% and 10%)		Higher than Average (more than 10%)	
Greater Cordoba	6.8	Greater Catamarca	9.7	Santa Fe and Santo Tome	14.9
SS [expansion not given] of Jujuy and Palpala	6.5	San Luis and El Chorrillo	8.9	Bahia Blanca	14.8
Posadas	6.5	Formosa	8.3	Greater Rosario	11.8
Greater La Plata	6.4	Greater Resistencia	7.9	Greater SM [expansion not given] of Tucuman and Tafi Viejo	11.8
Greater San Juan	6.0	Corrientes	7.7	Comodoro Rivadavia	11.6
La Rioja	5.7	Parana	7.5	Neuquen	11.5
Santa Rosa and Toay	5.3			Salta	10.1
Ushuaia and Rio Grande	5.3				
Greater Mendoza	4.6				
Santiago del Estero and La Banda	3.9				
Rio Gallegos	3.0				

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Bolivia

First Year of Sanchez Administration Analyzed

PY0608014394 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1819 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Article by Alejandro Varela]

[Text] La Paz, 4 Aug (EFE)—On 6 August 1994 President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada will celebrate his first year as head of the Bolivian Government with a program of approved legislative measures that promises profound changes for a country that still has the worst indicators in South America.

The changes promised by Sanchez de Lozada have become a reality in Congress, but not in the cities or in the countryside, where the lives of the Bolivian people continue to be almost identical to what they were 12 months ago, with no signs of change in the medium term.

The Capitalization Law for the privatization of the main state companies, the Educational Reform Law, and the Popular Participation Law for distributing wealth with more equity are the instruments that have taken the Sanchez de Lozada administration a year to create and legalize in order to make its promises a reality.

The promulgation of these laws forced the government into harsh confrontations with various social and political sectors, leading the country to the brink of a state of siege, while President Sanchez de Lozada's popularity has fallen to almost half the percentage he enjoyed when he was inaugurated, according to the latest polls.

The Capitalization Law is the measure that seems to promise the most fruitful results for the short term, with the imminent privatization of the National Electricity Enterprise (ENDE) and the eventual privatization of the National Telecommunications Enterprise (ENTEL), Bolivian Government Oil Deposits (YPFB), the National Railway Enterprise (Enafe), and the National Smelting Enterprise (Enaf).

Through a different procedure the government is also planning to reorganize and privatize the Mining Corporation of Bolivia (Comibol) and Lloyd Bolivian Airlines, both of which have declared bankruptcy.

Another basic pillar of the Sanchez de Lozada program had been to implement the contract to sell natural gas to Brazil that was signed by the Jaime Paz Zamora administration (1989-1993), but this has not been done due to constant delays.

The economic indicators have not been the best company for the Bolivian president during the first 12 months of his administration, with growth that by the end of 1994 will reach 4 percent, an inflation rate that could surpass 7 percent, and a trade deficit that during the first quarter of this year reached $39.5 million.

Sanchez de Lozada promised a massive creation of jobs, which has not occurred. On the contrary, during the first months of his administration Sanchez de Lozada saw the need to dismiss over 9,000 public workers, but he immediately had to take measures to mitigate the situation through a "Social Relief Plan," which the people baptized the "Pain Reliever Plan" in reference to an analgesic for children.

From the political point of view the government was hardly able to keep the coalition together, being under the constant threat of departure by the populist Solidarity Civic Union (UCS). Thanks to the UCS, Sanchez de Lozada's party, the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (MNR), enjoys an absolute majority in Congress.

Another promise made by the president was a struggle against corruption, and in this regard the Bolivian people were astonished to see in one year the fall of Supreme Court President Edgar Oblitas for alleged blackmail, while ex-President Jaime Paz Zamora was forced to withdraw from political life for his alleged links with drug trafficking.

Drug trafficking continues to be one of the most serious problems affecting Bolivia, which is the world's second greatest producer of coca, the raw material for making cocaine, after Peru, according to figures by the Bolivian Government.

In the last 12 months the only thing that the battle against drug trafficking seems to have done is to fire up peasant violence, which did not exist before, in the central region of Chapare where most of the coca is grown, the eradication of which involves a joint effort by the Bolivian and U.S. Governments.

A government police success for the first year of the administration was the arrest of ex-de facto President Luis Garcia Meza (1980-1981), sentenced in Bolivia to 30 years in prison, who was arrested on 11 March in Brazil, where he is being held awaiting extradition.

Regarding foreign policy, consular relations with Chile initially moved toward the possibility of restoring diplomatic ties, but later there was a new distancing when President Sanchez de Lozada surprisingly and without explanation decided to change Bolivian Consul to Santiago Armando Loayza, after having named him a few months earlier.

Air Force 'Unable' To Control Air Space

PY0508205694 La Paz HOY in Spanish 27 Jul 94 p 12

[Text] ANF—Bolivian Air Force (FAB) Commander General Jose Perez Reyes Ortiz has reported that the FAB is technically and technologically unable to control Bolivian air space sovereignty, which is why this task for the time being has been entrusted to four modern U.S. planes which arrived 10 days ago.

The Defense Ministry has reported that the tracking and reconnaissance planes which are participating in "Operation New Dawn" in the Chapare, Cochabamba, and

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Santa Cruz comprise one AWACS-equipped E-3, a P-3 tracking plane, and one KC-135 Stratotanker.

The FAB commander explained that four planes arrived within the framework of bilateral agreements: two DEA radar planes; one tanker (fuel supplier); and one U.S. Air Force D-3. [sentence as published]

He said this U.S. equipment controls the movement of planes used for the illegal trafficking of controlled substances. He said: "If these planes return to their bases of origin, Bolivian airspace will be more vulnerable than ever."

The general added that installation of two secondary radar units in Santa Cruz and Trinidad will help control our airspace.

He said these radar units were acquired from Italy for $16 million; $8 million in credit and $8 million in loan. They will enable Bolivia "to control, to a large extent, its airspace."

He said: "These two radar units will be supplemented by the U.S. planes that might eventually arrive to cooperate in intercepting drug trafficking planes." [sentence as published]

Brazil

Franco 'Afraid' UN Resolution May Hurt Haiti

PY0808180894 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 4 Aug 94 p 4

[Article by President Itamar Franco]

[Text] Brazilian foreign policy is inspired by the permanent interests of the Brazilian nation. Our diplomatic activities have their own dynamics, based on the national Constitution, and faithfully obey our legal tradition.

In the international field Brazil acts within the limits established by the Constitution. As a senator, in the full conviction of my democratic beliefs, I participated in drafting this Constitution, Article 4 of which establishes the principles guiding our international relations. Among these principles I would like to emphasize those that deal with self-determination by peoples, nonintervention, equality among nations, the defense of peace, and the need to find peaceful solutions to conflicts.

In the UN Charter, as well as in the OAS Charter, the international community recommends pursuing negotiated solutions to international conflicts. The use of force is admitted only as the last possible solution. This resource only becomes legitimate in the face of clear threats to international peace and security.

Based on Article 4 of the Constitution and on the legal traditions sanctioned in the UN and OAS Charters, I determined that Brazil should abstain from voting during the recent session in which the UN Security Council debated the resolution authorizing the establishment of a multinational force to intervene in Haiti. This resolution was ultimately approved with 12 votes in favor and two abstentions: those of Brazil and the PRC.

Within the framework of the Security Council—where Brazil will, until the end of the year, occupy a seat as non-permanent member for the Latin American and Caribbean countries—abstention from voting means that a country does not support the action or objectives recommended in the resolution. It does not signify indifference or a lack of definition.

The principles that motivated the Brazilian decision were included in a declaration presented to the organization, before the voting session, by our representative before the Security Council.

In the declaration we point out Brazil's interest in peacefully solving the Haitian problem and the efforts we have made toward a peaceful settlement to the crisis that erupted there after the democratic process was violently interrupted, challenging the will of the international community, which was expressed in the OAS and UN Security Council resolutions.

Brazil observes with worry the "de facto" Port-au-Prince regime's disrespect for the sovereign will of the Haitian people, who had chosen with their vote to make Jean Bertrand Aristide president. My administration supports and defends the idea of restoring democracy in Haiti.

I am not convinced, however, that the measures proposed in the Security Council resolution will contribute to restoring democracy in Haiti or bringing relief to the long-lasting sufferings of the Haitian people. I am afraid that the implementation of this resolution may worsen that country's problems. The defense of democracy is not favored by resorting to coercive means that can have unpredictable consequences.

In the pursuit of a permanent solution to the issue it is necessary to exhaust all possibilities of finding a peaceful solution. This would call for strict compliance with the sanctions specifically aimed at harming the "de facto" regime. It would also call for an appropriate period of time for evaluating the effects of these sanctions. We must remember that the new sanctions went into force only nine weeks ago.

The Security Council's exceptional power regarding the use of force, which is detailed under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, should not be indiscriminately invoked under the excuse of "seeking more agile mechanisms" for responding to attacks against democracy, because they violate the basic principles of peaceful coexistence between nations as well as normal U.S. doctrine.

Regarding the aforementioned resolution, the concept of international conflict as developed in other texts was transferred to the Latin American scenario, but has no bearing on the case of Haiti. The operation currently being considered is based on the resolution approved during the military

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confrontation in the Persian Gulf. This situation had very different political and legal characteristics.

The Brazilian position is, therefore, consistent with our historical activity in all international forums, and particularly at the Security Council.

Our balanced decision reflects our concerns about and yearnings for the peace and self-determination that most peoples of the American Continent are entitled to. Evidence of this is that Latin American countries such as Mexico, Cuba, Venezuela, and Uruguay, which are not members of the Security Council, also expressed their nonconformity with the actions authorized by the resolution.

We are not convinced that all political means to solve the Haitian domestic crisis have been exhausted. In our opinion there are other instruments, more effective than arms, for restoring peace in the country and allowing compliance with the democratic will of the Haitian people, as expressed through Jean-Bertrand Aristide's election.

I take this opportunity to quote Tancredo Neves, who 11 years ago in Recife, while still a governor, said: "War, unlike what Clausewitz [Prussian general and writer] thought, is not a continuation of political intercourse through other means, but rather its frustration."

Colombia

Castro Continues Visit, Meets Officials

Meets With Spanish Foreign Minister

PA0808132594 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2003 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 7 Aug (EFE)—Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana has said in Santa Fe de Bogota that the fiscal reforms implemented in Havana are satisfactory for the Spanish Government.

The Spanish foreign minister said "that was one of the suggestions the Spanish Government has made to the Cuban Government as an important step in the process of economic transformation."

Solana, who is attending Colombian President Ernesto Samper's inauguration in Santa Fe de Bogota, met this morning with Fidel Castro, who informed him of the economic reforms implemented on the island and the incidents that took place in Havana on 5 August.

The Spanish foreign minister said according to Castro, "the situation is calm on the island, and the Cuban president hopes there will be no additional disorders."

In addition, Solana said he opposes the bill the Popular Party is planning to submit in Spain in order to get the government to limit its ties with Cuba exclusively to diplomatic and humanitarian relations.

Solana said Spanish cooperation with Cuba amounts to 190 million pesetas ($1.5 million) annually, 100 million in humanitarian aid and 90 million in cultural and technical cooperation.

The minister said "now is not the time to reduce aid to Cuba; on the contrary, instead of cutting aid I would increase it if I had more resources."

"I will not be the one who will cut humanitarian aid to a country such as Cuba," Solana said.

Meets Paraguay's Wasmosy

PY0808152494 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 8 Aug 94 p 17

[Report by special correspondents Celso Chavez and Luis Vera in Colombia]

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota—As Cuban leader Fidel Castro walked down the stairs for breakfast with host President Ernesto Samper, President Juan Carlos Wasmosy asked him: How are you Commander Castro? With a stern expression, Fidel replied: "Good morning, Mr. President." The Paraguayan president later confirmed that no one agreed with the blockade on Cuba, while everyone wants "a democratic opening." Wasmosy pointed out that Castro has been asked to implement this democratic opening "as the commander enjoys great prestige in his country despite the current demonstrations."

Our president mentioned the first and historic anti-Castro demonstration in Havana last week. The bearded strongman of the Caribbean island described the demonstration "as planned and conducted by violent criminals and bums."

Concerning his petition for a democratic opening, Wasmosy noted: "Castro says he has the best education system and the best health care system. To a certain extent, for his country, their system has yielded results, but there is extreme poverty in Cuba. As other nations have experienced, this system has not yielded results. We do not want to make comparisons, but these systems have not yielded results."

Wasmosy added that Paraguay asked the Castro Government about the possibility of opening a trade agency in our country, even though diplomatic ties are basically established with democratic countries.

Vows Never To 'Leave Battlefield'

PA0808230694 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2106 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 8 Aug (EFE)—Cuban President Fidel Castro said today in Santa Fe de Bogota that he does not think about death or leaving power because revolutionaries "never leave the battlefield or retire."

Castro arrived in Santa Fe de Bogota on Saturday to attend President Ernesto Samper's inauguration ceremony on Sunday. Samper replaced Cesar Gaviria, who in turn will assume the post of OAS secretary general.

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In a statement to journalists of the Cadena Radial Colombiana, Castro said that for him "work is not a pleasure, but a duty."

"I believe having to struggle for so many years, waging the same battle, is unfair. At the same time, however, it would be treacherous on my part to leave the battlefield," the Cuban president said.

Castro said that for him "personally, exercising power, which is work, is no problem." He added that "no one clings to that entity called government, which is one of the most unrewarding tasks in the world."

He said he would like to be like his personal friend, Colombian writer Gabriel Garcia Marquez, who "moves back and forth, goes wherever he wants to go, writes, and does things. I would rather be a painter, a scientist who does research work," he said.

"If those people who want to see me away from everything can make that possible, but with honor and dignity, I would be grateful to them," he stressed.

Castro said he does not remember "any liberator in this hemisphere who abandoned the battlefield before conquering independence for our countries."

"If you asked me, I would say that what I want most is for us to live in peace, without being threatened with destruction, without the blockade. I would then dedicate my time to reading—I love to read— and writing—I also love to write—and I would die in bed with resignation," Castro added.

As for his meeting with the new Colombian president, Castro said "we placed special emphasis on peace in a moderate tone, without arrogance, noting that we must all contribute to that end."

Castro stressed that Cuba will continue respecting Colombia's autonomy in handling its internal problems, especially the guerrilla struggle. He said Samper told him "he wants a political alternative with social justice" for Cuba.

President Samper "did not say he wanted an alternative based on liberalism or neoliberalilsm, but an alternative of economic development with social justice," the Cuban president stressed.

Holds 'Exclusive' News Conference

PA0908021894 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Aug 94

[From the "Seven O'Clock Newscast"]

[Text] Cuban President Fidel Castro, who is at this time boarding his plane for Havana, held an exclusive news conference with some Colombian media. The "Seven O'Clock Newscast" was there. The more I know Colombia, the more I love it, Castro said.

[Begin Castro recording] I was able to appreciate exceptional qualities in Garcia Marquez as an organizer. One would imagine that a writer is usually a disorganized person, but Garcia Marquez is a very organized man. He a very fine organizer. On that occasion, I became convinced—I must say this as a friend and admirer of his—he would have made a great president.

I sincerely view Gaviria as a friend. We have made contact throughout these four years at the summits and meetings in Cartagena. When one knows a person and is fond of that person, one is satisfied that person can hold such an important but difficult position.

I am not opposed to any of the views President Samper expressed yesterday. He mentioned a few more things. There is one you did not mention which is very important. He said it twice at the beginning of his speech—I would have to reread his speech—and later in the speech. Samper said he would not allow anyone in the world to dictate to Colombia the way it must resolve its problems and the way it must deal with the drug trafficking issue. This is a very important statement President Samper made, which I applauded. I said this is not an internal thing; this is defense of sovereignty.

I really want to say a few emotional words. I feel a growing liking and love for Colombians. I can state that the more I know Colombians, the more I deal with Colombians, the more I love you. [end recording]

The last time Castro visited Santa Fe de Bogota was 46 years ago. Before his news conference, Fidel spoke to an auditorium of supporters of various parties on his presence in Santa Fe de Bogota on 9 April 1948, the day Liberal political leader Jorge Eliecer Gaytan died.

[Begin Castro recording] So many things happened to me in 48 hours. I don't think anyone has ever had a similar experience. I only know I joined the first column advancing toward a police station. [crowd laughs and applauds] [Words indistinct] better than a witness who also had to get a rifle.

I was not able to get a rifle. All I was able to get was a large gun that hurled tear gas [crowd laughs and applauds] and a bunch of large wooden bullets. They resembled canyon shells more than infantry bullets. A lieutenant told me: Blow it all up! He gave me his rifle and asked me for support. I accepted happily.

What I did in those days, when I joined the people, was one of the most altruistic things I have ever done in my life, one of the most selfless and pure things I have ever done. And after so many incidents, I ended up at the Fifth Police Station, but not under custody, no. I ended up at the Fifth Police Station with about 400 policemen who had rebelled. I can assure you there is nothing worse than to have one single rifle among so many people without rifles [crowd laughs and applauds] because the others want you to win the Battles of Boyaca, Junin, and Ayacucho with your rifle and its 14 bullets. [crowd

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laughs and applauds] [Words indistinct] a few students with me and a rifle to seize the station. But I was so lucky—there is no doubt I was extremely lucky those days—that the station had already been seized. [crowd laughs and applauds] [end recording]

Reiterates Plan To Allow Departures

PA0908050094 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0300 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Report on news conference by Cuban President Fidel Castro on 8 August; place not given; from the "CMO Newscast"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Commander Fidel was quite clear; he will not abandon power while there is a blockade against Cuba. Regarding the problem of people immigrating to the United States, President Castro demanded that the northern country take effective, expeditious measures.

[Begin Castro recording] We are accused of being cruel and inhuman. We are not in the least interested in keeping any citizen from leaving the country. We have only been doing the basics, which is seeing that the laws of the country are respected. But we have no trouble or objection to allowing anyone who wants to leave, any one who wants to travel with his own resources, to do so. This is the United States's responsibility, not ours. They are the ones who are promoting massive immigration with the blockade and the attempts to get us to surrender through hunger and sickness. They are the ones who encourage illegal departures. They are the ones who encourage this situation. We have said nothing about massive or small migrations. We simply mentioned we would remove the obstacles so any person who wants to leave on his own can do so and so relatives who want their relatives to join them can do so with their own resources. [end recording]

Fidel believes there should be no end to the attempts to achieve peace, and that is why he commented on President Samper's speech and his announcements on the issue.

[Begin Castro recording] First, I wish you peace. If we could modestly cooperate to help you achieve peace, we would do so. The best thing we can wish a country like Colombia is peace and that it develop in peace and justice. [end recording]

Regarding Gaviria's position in the OAS, he said:

[Begin Castro recording] We would like him to be sort of a Simon Bolivar, fighting for Latin American integration, justice, and independence. I believe this job is an exceptional opportunity for him and hope that he will perform his duties with fairness, justice, and talent. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Meets Samper, Returns To Havana

PA0908015394 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0048 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 8 Aug (EFE)—Cuban President Fidel Castro returned to Havana today after three days in Colombia, where he attended the inauguration of new Colombian President Ernesto Samper.

Castro and his entourage of over 100 people, including officials and personal bodyguards, left Santa Fe de Bogota's military airport at 1920 (0020 GMT, Tuesday) aboard two Cubana de Aviacion flights.

Hours before his departure, Castro met with the Colombian president and wished success to former Colombian President Cesar Gaviria, who will assume the post of OAS secretary general the middle of next month.

Castro made comments on last Friday's disturbances in Havana to Colombian reporters. He said that he was only a few meters from the incidents and ordered his bodyguards not to open fire for any reason.

"When I learned there had been some problems, that some people were throwing stones, that there was shooting, I felt it was my duty, my foremost duty, to be there, where the disturbances were, with the people," the Cuban president stated.

He added that "there was not a single additional stone, not a single additional shot, and I told our escorts: Let there not be a single shot fired. I told them very frankly," he said.

Castro said he has always "believed there are weapons much more powerful than firearms: moral weapons" and that he is not afraid of dying.

"Of course I am and will always be ready to struggle alongside the people and to die with the people. Anyone who knows how to do his duty cannot fear death," Fidel Castro stated.

Although Castro visited Colombia three times last year, this is his first visit to Santa Fe de Bogota in 46 years. On 9 April 1948 the Cuban president was in the Colombian capital when political Liberal leader Jorge Eliecer Gaitan was killed, giving rise to the popular uprising known as the "Bogotazo," which left downtown Bogota in ruins.

Venezuela's Caldera Views Meeting With Samper

PA0808145194 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 7 Aug 94

[From the "Cripton Newscast"; passages within quotations are recorded]

[Text] President Caldera is still making news. He held a news conference at the home of the Venezuelan ambassador to Colombia a few minutes ago. Correspondent Eduardo Amaya has the report:

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[Amaya] For the Venezuelan president, the most important topics he must discuss with his Colombian counterpart, Ernesto Samper, are guerrilla incursions and Colombian narcotrafficking on the border.

[Caldera] "The commitment of both countries is to wage a struggle against narcotrafficking. The people of Colombia share Venezuela's concern over the activities of Colombian guerrillas and terrorism in this country."

[Amaya] President Caldera will avail himself of the opportunity of this visit to promote a Latin American campaign against corruption.

[Caldera] "We must secure a commitment so that neither protection nor asylum will be given to criminals, such as those responsible for such crimes, or to those who acquire illegal wealth at the cost of our peoples."

[Amaya] The thorny topic of the Gulf of Venezuela or Coqiovacoa could not be missing.

[Caldera] "Why not follow the policy of President Belisario Betancur, who said during his administration there were many important issues on which the two countries need to work rather than engaging in something that could cause us difficulties? I am not defending it. It has been historically called the Gulf of Venezuela."

Foreign Minister Views Gulf of Venezuela Issue

PA0508155694 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Report by Raul Gutirrez from the Foreign Ministry in Santa Fe de Bogota; from the "24 Hours Newscast"—live]

[Text] [Gutierrez] Good evening. I am here at the Foreign Ministry where Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin is answering questions about a map published in Venezuela that allegedly erases Colombia's rights in the Gulf of Venezuela.

Foreign Minister Sanin, does the map exist?

[Sanin] We share your concern. We have contacted the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry about a study and a map that erases Colombia's rights in the Gulf of Venezuela. Fortunately, and for the good of relations between Colombia and Venezuela, the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry has rejected the map and has said that it does not correspond with Venezuela's official position.

[Gutierrez] In the future more clarifications will be made on this matter, but it will be the new government making these clarifications. From the Foreign Ministry this was Raul Gutierrez for "24 Hours Newscast."

New Mines Minister Remarks on Expectations

PA0808161394 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Jorge Eduardo Cock Londono, mines and energy minister, by Caracol News Director Dario Arizmendi in Santa Fe de Bogota; from "Caracol's 0600 to 0900" newscast—live]

[Text] [Arizmendi] What are your expectations now that you have assumed office?

[Cock Londono] I have many expectations, many things to do, many programs to implement. You know the president made very important statements and plans during his campaign and in his platform; we will try to implement all we can.

[Arizmendi] What is your view, your assessment of the Cuciana Oil Field?

[Cock Londono] I cannot give you a personal view concerning figures, whether they are too high or too low. Anyway, it is a very important oil field. We must develop it to extract the petroleum, export it, and obtain the expected foreign exchange. If this is not done on time, we might risk getting behind. We will make every effort to guarantee that this action is done.

[Arizmendi] The president said yesterday the economic opening would only be a phrase or a dream without course, effort, or energy. What is the country's situation in that area from your viewpoint, being an expert in the field?

[Cock Londono] I believe you are referring to electric energy, right?

[Arizmendi] Correct.

[Cock Londono] There are many activities to implement, all of them aimed at consolidating the energy sector in the most advisable way possible. We must improve the energy that Congress issued recently. We must try to harmonize it with the law on public services, because there are certain matters that are not truly compatible. For example, the Energy Regulation Commission must be strengthened for the sake of the safety and calm of Colombians. This commission is in charge of very important duties, especially regarding electricity and natural gas. We must guarantee the energy supply for coming years and dispel recent rumors about a possible rationing during the next few years. We can be certain in this country that if we do what we have to do, that will not happen.

New Labor Minister Remarks on Samper Speech

PA0808154394 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Labor Minister Maria Sol Navia by Caracol News Director Dario Arizmendi in Santa Fe de Bogota; from "Caracol's 0600 to 0900" newscast—live]

[Text] [Arizmendi] What is your opinion of the president's speech?

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[Navia] I believe it was very good, very pragmatic, particularly the part where he outlined the policy and government he wants for the next four-year term.

[Arizmendi] It had a marked social emphasis, and he announced a solidarity network that will be created soon. Will the solidarity network be tasked to the Labor Ministry?

[Navia] I have no information yet. I did pay close attention to the announcement, but I have no information on it yet. In addition, as you said, his speech had a marked social emphasis, and this characteristic is very important, because I feel we will be able to do a great job regarding the country's social sector, which needs urgent attention.

[Arizmendi] Your appointment was made the afternoon of 5 August. Have you been able to make any contact or hold any lengthy meetings with your predecessor?

[Navia] Absolutely none. We have made no contact. I began working in that direction early today so as to obtain the documents concerning the transition between the previous administration and the new one. We need to know the status of the ministry, its projects, and the institutes under it. We also have to determine the policies, in detail and in depth, proposed by the individuals who were in charge of the transition.

[Arizmendi] You are the only person from Valle del Cauca in President Samper's cabinet, but there are another two high positions held by people from Valle del Cauca, Carlos Holmes Trujillo, the high commissioner for peace, and Antonio Jose Ocampo, the national planning director. How did your department receive the news of your appointment?

[Naviaa] As much as I have heard—I have been in Santa Fe de Bogota since 5 August—I believe very well. I have been a person who [words indistinct] very much in touch with Cali and Valle del Cauca. My family lives there. I travel very often. I have been in close contact with all sectors of Cali and Valle. I held several public posts. I was a Cali councilwoman. I also worked in the private sector. I worked in FENALCO [National Federation of Businessmen]. Thus, I have established many contacts with the business sector. I believe I have their support, and they have mine. I am certain I will represent my department very proudly due to the importance of Valle del Cauca Department.

[Arizmendi] What has been your contact with the labor sector?

[Navia] As I mentioned, I had many contacts with the labor sector during various stages of my life, especially when I worked in FENALCO. I was a member of several boards of directors that included labor leaders. I worked with them at SENA [National Apprenticeship Service], the Family Welfare Institute, and the FENALCO Compensation Fund. Thus, I did have contact with labor leaders, obviously at the local level, at the Valle del Cauca level. I believe, however—I worked in a private firm where human resources were essential—I acquired a good sense and idea, through my experience in the labor field during the past 10 years, about the importance of human resources and the manner in which they should be dealt. I know how to handle these types of relations, which are vital for the country's development.

[Arizmendi] Do you describe yourself as a conciliatory or conflicting person? What is your personality like?

[Navia] I believe I am a conciliatory person. In general terms, I have had no work conflicts in my life. I have been working for 20 years. I have never had any serious conflicts. I believe in dialogue. I believe in the participation of all groups. Logically, I am a person who respects principles and discipline. I believe solutions can be found through dialogue. Conflicts can be resolved by talking, never by force, but principles must be respected.

Agriculture Minister on Samper's Package of Measures

PA0808150794 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Agriculture Minister Antonio Hernandez Gamarra by Caracol News Director Dario Arizmendi and unidentified reporter in Santa Fe de Bogota; from "Caracol's 0600 to 0900" newscast—live]

[Text] [Arizmendi] When will the package of measures the president announced yesterday be ready?

[Hernandez] I hope the first measures to be adopted will become effective halfway through next week.

[Arizmendi] What areas will these measures target?

[Hernandez] The measures will be divided into three groups; that is, an immediate action plan, long-term policies, and certain ideas on institutional adjustment.

The immediate action plan will consist of three parts. Certain measures will focus on the assimilation of harvests by protecting the profitability of producers and trying to make certain adjustments whenever possible. Other measures will target credit policies for small farmers in an attempt to strengthen the Agriculture-Livestock Guarantee Fund and make its operation more effective. The last measures will deal with funds allocations to specific programs.

Long-term measures deal with the fund and the government's fundamental efforts throughout the period as stated by President Samper. The government's main goal will be to make the agricultural sector more competitive in the long run vis-a-vis international markets so that short-term measures are not as necessary as they currently are due to obvious circumstances.

The third group includes certain institutional measures required in the sector due to the General Agricultural Law or Law No. 101. Minister Campo began working on

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these measures, but we must continue working on them. The emphasis will be somewhat on the regulation of the agricultural reform law in order to begin implementing Law No. 101 promptly.

[Arizmendi] We understand a financing program with special subsidies will be made available to farmers in the short term.

[Hernandez] Correct. This program will be implemented as part of the short-term measures. Significant emphasis will be given to the social component of the agriculture-livestock policy through an increase in subsidies for rural housing. A greater number of subsidies for rural housing will constitute one of the basic elements of the government's social policy and the social pact announced by President Samper during his speech yesterday.

[Reporter] The president referred to selective subsidies for agriculture yesterday. How will these subsidies work?

[Hernandez] Good morning.

[Reporter] I am pleased to talk to you. Congratulations.

[Hernandez] You are very kind. The General Agricultural Law establishes the possibility of granting subsidies for the capitalization of the rural sector. The gist of this law is to be able to reduce the cost of credits when the peasants, farmers, and ranchers make real investments in order for these investments to contribute to the economy's capitalization and to enable us to reduce the cost of credits through such mechanisms as those stipulated in the subsidies for capitalization. The government believes subsidies can be given to certain sectors for very specific problems, if necessary, so as to prevent any specific crises. We will specifically work on defining these instruments in these coming days.

President-Elect Appoints Commissioner for Peace

PA0508195594 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Aug 94

[From the "Seven O'Clock Newscast"]

[Text] Today Carlos Holmes Trujillo, one of the closest associates of President Ernesto Samper, was appointed commissioner for peace. The position in the Samper administration will not just be one of simple peace advisor. The Office of the High Commissioner for Peace will have ministerial rank.

[Begin Holmes Trujillo recording] We must make every effort possible for peace. There is no task that must not be accomplished, no door at which we must not knock. This is the country's priority. [end recording]

In addition to holding a seat on the Council of Ministers, the high commissioner for peace will respond and report directly to the president.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] You have always been concerned about peace.

[Holmes Trujillo] All Colombians have been concerned about peace. I will obviously be more concerned about this issue now that I have this responsibility. [end recording]

Next Sunday in his inauguration address President Samper will outline his peace proposal, a key issue for his administration.

M-19 Not To Participate in Samper Government

PA0508153594 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 Aug 94

[From the "National Newscast"]

[Text] The 19 April Movement [M-19] today surprised the country by announcing that it will not participate in the government of Ernesto Samper. The decision was made at a time when all political groups are fighting over the distribution of state ministries and posts.

Antonio Navarro Wolff rejected the possibility of participating in the Samper administration. This is how M-19 is attempting to recover its role as an alternative force, which was lost during the government of Cesar Gaviria.

[Begin Navarro recording] People voted for us to ensure that we will try to rebuild a third path, an alternative to traditional forces. I believe that in order to heed the people's resolve, we must remain independent from the government that gets under way on 7 August. [end recording]

Antonio Navarro believes that the organizations in control have fully embraced the Samper government. This is why M-19 adopted a strategy called Position With Independence to be implemented in councils and assemblies. M-19 is already campaigning for this strategy.

[Begin Navarro recording] Now that we do not have a Comptroller's Office—because it is in the hands of influence peddlers—and that the Prosecutor General's Office is in the hands of politicians, I believe the government will have to be controlled from the outside. [end recording]

To achieve this, Navarro has something up his sleeve: several constitutional mechanisms to incite people. He listed them:

[Begin Navarro recording] Control, corruption supervision, people's participation through several constitutional mechanisms, and the implementation of pilot programs that can be expanded. [end recording]

Vice President-Elect To Organize Referendum on Drugs

PA0908040894 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 Aug 94

[From the "Cripton Newscast"]

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[Text] We are just a few hours away from inauguration day, and Vice President-elect Humberto de la Calle has no official residence, office, or salary. Nevertheless, he is ready to organize a referendum to ban the legalization of the so-called personal drug dose. Ivan Dario Parra has a report:

[Parra] The 1991 Constitution established the office of vice president, but Congress has not set the standards under which it should function. For this reason, today, only 24 hours away from the swearing-in ceremony for the new government, the vice president has no residence or office. Also, he does not know how much money he will earn.

[Begin De la Calle recording] I do not know what my salary will be. I know that the Gaviria administration is taking steps, such as a provisional residence and a budget allocation. At first, we will work under this provisional system. The vice presidential building is being built right now. Reportedly, part of it will be ready in October or November, but in the meantime we will be working from a small building across from Narino Palace. [end recording]

Also, there is nothing in writing establishing who should swear in the vice president.

[Begin De la Calle recording] President Samper will swear me in. I think this is the proper thing to do, considering that in the case of the vice president there are no applicable standards in this regard, and, therefore, the general norm should apply. This general norm is that in cases where there is no standard for swearing in an official, this official must be sworn in by the president. [end recording]

Despite all of this uncertainty, Humberto de la Calle is certain about one thing: His first goal as vice president will be to ask people to sign a petition to support a referendum against the personal consumption of drugs.

New Prosecutor General Valdivieso Interviewed

PA0508150094 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 31 Jul 94 pp A-1, A-24

["Exclusive" interview with Alfonso Valdivieso Sarmiento, the new prosecutor general, by unidentified reporter; place and date not given]

[Text] [EL TIEMPO] On what areas should the Prosecutor General's Office start working?

[Valdivieso] The Prosecutor General's Office is still in its planning stage, a delicate and difficult stage on which the office's future will depend. If things are not well planned, they can fall through. I believe the Prosecutor General's Office, which has approximately 20,000 employees, must strengthen its organization systems, expedite its procedures, and adopt a mechanism to control its actions. It is being questioned that the office is spending a large budget, the reason why it is being demanded to produce much more than it is. I believe it can and must produce more. The prosecutor general's scope is larger than the scope his office has and must have. I have said, during this first stage, there was too much emphasis on the prosecutor general, not on the office he heads.

[EL TIEMPO] What do you mean?

[Valdivieso] I mean there is much to do internally, because the office is still weak and must gain strength.

[EL TIEMPO] How will people put their trust in you, not in your office?

[Valdivieso] De Greiff's work could be completed by setting a specific goal to ensure the prosecutor general's office will reach the level de Greiff reached. It should be said: "With the help of the prosecutor general's office, we will be able to punish all illegal activities." This is the challenge posed by replacing de Greiff due to what he represented. We are necessarily compelled to keep his scope and, at the same time, to strengthen the institution. The country can expect the new prosecutor general will continue to enhance the image left by de Greiff.

[EL TIEMPO] Is de Greiff's image too heavy a burden on you?

[Valdivieso] In short, I trust the image of the prosecutor general or my image could be very large insofar as the prosecutor general's office has a great performance. This view is how I see public service: doing things not to achieve personal significance but to carry out the assigned duties.

[EL TIEMPO] Will Prosecutor General de Greiff be your aide or adviser?

[Valdivieso] No. I believe he is fed up with these issues and will move on to better things.

[EL TIEMPO] What do you believe is the weakest point of the Prosecutor General's Office?

[Valdivieso] Its lack of enough expedition. It must be more efficient and show enough capability to tend to problems and promptly process many reports. The conditions to achieve this goal are given, and I believe we can do much more.

[EL TIEMPO] How will you handle the looming problem of lawsuit duplication?

[Valdivieso] There are indications of an excessive accumulation of lawsuits, because documents are not adequately flowing into the hands of judges. The mindset of former government officials, who have not yet adapted themselves to the joint accusation system, must be changed. It is necessary to advance in the creation of professional investigative agencies so that the Prosecutor General's Office can become trustworthy, and the Colombian people can demand justice from it. The most important thing is for the institution to operate better.

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[EL TIEMPO] Does not focusing on important cases that arrest the people's attention represent a change of style to preserve the image? Would this change of style not spread to the infrastructure of the Prosecutor General's Office?

[Valdivieso] Unfortunately, the crimes that cause the greatest public impact must be handled promptly and on a priority basis. I am aware, however, it has been impossible to persuade the country the actions that affect the common person must also get proper attention.

[EL TIEMPO] The Supreme Court of Justice has stated we have desk prosecutors. How can this idea be changed?

[Valdivieso] Of course, in this system the prosecutor must not remain seated waiting for the evidence, as happened in the former system. He must look for the evidence. He is an investigator who must prosecute criminals. When one sees a prosecutor issue an accusation resolution, one wonders: Well, what have we done if the prosecutor does not prosecute? The prosecutor is the one who prosecutes and tells a magistrate who the criminal is so the magistrate can complete the criminal's file. But the prosecutor suddenly expects to gather absolutely all the evidence. The prosecutor must be able to assess the various elements to raise an accusation.

[EL TIEMPO] In other words, less investigation and more accusation?

[Valdivieso] The accusation is the consequence of the investigation, a speedy investigation and a timely accusation. According to the prosecutor, the struggle is not lost, and drugs should not be legalized. This view portrays him as an accommodating prosecutor in the eyes of the United States. I expect my position not to be interpreted as trying to appeal to those who view this problem as I do. I have held this position all the time. The United States can rest assured that we act based on our convictions, that we do not act under any conditions, and that, if our actions deserve consideration and respect, the United States should also pay attention to our requests and claims.

[EL TIEMPO] Have you spoken to the U.S. authorities yet? Are there any prospects that judicial cooperation may be reestablished?

[Valdivieso] No. I hope to do so in the next few days. Full reestablishment of cooperation is proceeding well. Unfortunately, it all began through a misunderstanding, which is somewhat understandable, in which no bad intention or inspiration can be attributed to de Greiff's position. There were misunderstandings inasmuch as there should be independence between the Prosecutor General's Office and the government. Even more so, there should be proper coordination toward other governments. It is incongruous for the government to clamp down on organized crime while the Prosecutor General's Office says that the struggle has failed and that legalization is the solution.

[EL TIEMPO] How will you achieve that independence?

[Valdivieso] Independence must be imposed. Anyway, the Prosecutor General's Office has very defined roles. I hope not to interfere in the work of the executive branch, and, of course, I am certain there will be no government interference in the work of the Prosecutor General's Office.

[EL TIEMPO] Will it also be independent from the Penal Court of the Supreme Court and from the Supreme Court in general?

[Valdivieso] Totally independent, but we must work in full agreement. The Supreme Court is a permanent point of reference the Prosecutor General should always have.

[EL TIEMPO] What possibility do you see for a political solution to the armed conflict?

[Valdivieso] I trust Samper and Serpa can attain conditions so these groups may rejoin civilian life and thus avoid wasting time in talks that lead nowhere and not again waste these dialogue facilities. The Prosecutor General's Office will take action against all crimes connected with subversion, with the understanding this is a problem that has a political connotation.

[EL TIEMPO] There are questions about your political background. Is it a politician or an academic who will arrive in the Prosecutor General's Office?

[Valdivieso] I have never wanted to allow myself to be defined in such a limited manner. One of the limitations was the fact that I had come from politics. I had to explain to the magistrates why my transition through politics was not to be construed as something bad in my life. No one can say I left a bureaucratic booty in the Education Ministry. This can be seen in a certain way in the electoral results. People can rest assured that I assume my responsibilities, that I take on the public service challenge, and that I will not politicize supervisory organizations.

[EL TIEMPO] What do you fear?

[Valdivieso] I fear finding an atmosphere and a situation in the Prosecutor General's Office that could lead to the collapse of the institution. That the institution cannot be an efficient mechanism for investigation. I am waiting to see just what the Prosecutor's Office capacities are. It is not a fear of not being able; rather, it is fear of finding conditions that make it difficult to achieve the goal. There are many things one can do, but some thing just cannot be overcome.

[EL TIEMPO] Then if you fail it would be because of the institution, not you.

[Valdivieso] Precisely. One must make sure that the Prosecutor's Office is sound. The big problem facing the new institutions is that people can say: what was the purpose of the new Constitution? What was the purpose of the "radical change"? In this new stage, I am certain

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that the hour of truth has arrived for the Prosecutor's Office. If this is or is not the solution to the enormous problem of impunity.

[EL TIEMPO] That is, through you the nation will know if the Prosecutor's Office is any good.

[Valdivieso] I think that's correct, since you can't really say anymore that the office is in an embryonic stage, that it is just getting started. It is at a stage at which it can demonstrate that it is a sound institution. There is no need to wait any longer.

[EL TIEMPO] What has been the problem with the surrender policy?

[Valdivieso] The problem grows out of a lack of trust in how the surrender policy is applied in harmony with other legal penal norms. The people think that this policy reached such a low point that sentences that can now be used are ridiculous. The idea is to recover that trust and credibility. Not everything is solved by increasing the sentences. This is needed; they must be increased. But I believe that above all this issue requires greater flexibility. I am reviewing the actual status of the surrender policy; I have made progress during some talks with the future justice minister.

[EL TIEMPO] What will the parameters be for the Valle Cartel's surrender?

[Valdivieso] We are waiting to see what the government indicates on this issue. If the surrender policy is going to be changed, there will be an attempt to apply the same conditions to those who commit crimes. There will no longer be better or worse penalties for people who have done the same things. If talks are needed, these will be held. I cannot say I won't do this, as this is provided for within the options that citizens have and within the duties of the Prosecutor Office's.

[EL TIEMPO] Will the Cali Cartel be a priority on the agenda when you take office?

[Valdivieso] I would prefer not to talk about priorities because there cannot be preferential treatment or classification of crimes. There is a certain expectation and eagerness to see results on special issues; I cannot deny this. But I cannot talk about priorities because might distort the tasks, discourage people, and give the impression that the Prosecutor's Office was created to only take care of these cases. I cannot limit myself to being the champion of the struggle against drug trafficking and forget about everything else. But Colombians can be fully assured that I consider this issue the most serious and that the Prosecutor's Office will take the due action this issue requires.

Attorney General Views Human Rights Violations

PA0508194994 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Aug 94

[From the "Seven O'Clock Newscast"]

[Text] A very harsh report on human rights has been completed at the Attorney General's Office and will be presented within a few days by Attorney General Gustavo Arrieta. Here are some of the points contained in the third report on human rights issued by Attorney General Gustavo Arrieta:

1. Police violate human rights in cities, while military forces seriously violate human rights in the countryside.
2. Attention to human rights within the training program for Army soldiers and policemen is just a vague topic, treated mostly as a theoretical and discursive issue.
3. The police high commissioner has encountered obstacles in carrying out his duties. Both the government and police have underestimated the role and authority of this official.
4. Military forces have failed to understand that, instead of protecting police, the cover-up that results from a misconstrued esprit de corps that tries to avoid sanctions on some policemen in fact weakens the police force, undermining its legitmacy.

Cali Police Officers Fired for Ties to Cartel

PA0508155194 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Aug 94

[From the "Seven O'Clock Newscast"]

[Text] The largest corruption scandal ever involving the police surfaced today. Yesterday's preliminary report by the "Seven O'Clock Newscast" that several members of the Cali Metropolitan Police were being investigated for apparently taking bribes from the Cali Cartel was not only confirmed—21 policemen who formed a network at the Santa Fe de Bogota Airport allowing shipments of cocaine to pass through were discovered.

In the former case, as we reported yesterday, the Search Bloc found during one of its raids lists of Cali's police officers and other public officials who reportedly received the Cartel's money. The "Seven O'Clock Newscast" obtained this preliminary report.

[Begin Cali Police Commissioner Adolfo Salamanca recording] In the case of the Cali Metropolitan Police, the National Police Advisory Board has decided to fire 10 officers and seven subofficers who are under investigation. But charges have been filed against many more police officers also implicated in this investigation. [end recording]

On 6 July, the Army Search Bloc arrived at the northern Cali office of Guillermo Palomar y Gonzalez, alleged member of the Cali Cartel. There authorities found, among other things, 20 diskettes containing information on a very large payoff to government officials, including 17 police officers, members of the technical staff in the Cali Prosecutor's Office, employees of the El Valle telephone company, bank employees, and customs and civil aeronautics officials.

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The payments, which were apparently made monthly, totaled nearly 1 billion pesos, according to information on the diskettes. Sources in the Prosecutor's Office revealed that the payments were made to beneficiaries' bank accounts in Panama and Miami.

In the specific case of the police, said list revealed the names of Colonel Jose Jairo Idarraga Ospina, subcommander of the Cali Metropolitan Police; Col. Julio Cesar Rodriguez Beltran, Cali operations commander; and Col. Rafael Ignacio Galan Lopez, head of Cali's Unase [Antiextortion and Kidnapping Unit]. Also on the list were the names of Cali Metropolitan Police Majors Gerardo Cruz Torres, Jacinto A. Concha Garcia, Mauro Aristides Pulido Vargas, Jesus Antonio Marin Bermudez, Andres Aurelio Alarcon Tique, Ramon Gonzalez Cardenas Bethancourt, and Edgar Armando Marino Pinzon. In addition to these officers, seven other subofficers are involved in this case.

In a short communique issued today, the police confirmed yesterday's report on the "Seven O'Clock Newscast" and revealed that all of those involved in the bribes case had been removed from their position.

[Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish at 1200 on 5 August broadcasts a one-minute report citing statements by Col. Jose Jairo Idarraga Ospina, subcommander of Cali Metropolitan Police, rejecting the allegations he is involved with the Cali Cartel. Col. Idarraga Ospina said police are trying to implicate him in this case "just because" his office telephone number appeared on one of the notebooks of the mafia. The high-ranking officer "voiced surprise over police hastiness in associating his name with the Cali Cartel and said the institution caused him enormous damage." The colonel explained "no specific charges" have been filed against him, adding "he will struggle to defend his career, honor, and dignity."]

Officials Comment on Corruption

PA0908040994 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Report by Chelo Garcia from the "Cripton Newscast"]

[Text] Following raids in Cali—raids in which the authorities discovered lists with more than 20 names of policemen from the capital of Valle del Cauca Department who are allegedly involved with the Cali Cartel—the prosecutor general and the commander of Colombia's Armed Forces have admitted that the Cali Cartel's tentacles and its corruptive capacity are very, very far-reaching.

[Begin recording] [Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff] This is very sad to see. It displays the corruptive capacity of drug trafficking. I have been saying this corruptive power has to be destroyed by destroying their business.

[Armed Forces Commander Ramon Gil Bermudez] Institutions are made up of human beings, and this kind of problem is ever-present. We are not disregarding the corruptive capacity of the cartel. As you know, the temptation of money can always lead to some kind of trouble. [end recording]

The duty of the Armed Forces General Command is to supervise and guide the troops to prevent other cases of corruption, to help them resist the temptation of money, and to prevent them from becoming poisoned, General Gil said, because the final objective—the end of the Cali Cartel and the arrest of the Rodriguez Orejuela brothers—must be achieved.

Factors Influencing Contraband Trade Viewed

94CA0144A Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 22 Jul 94 pp 1, 3B

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota—The open trade in contraband, and the underinvoicing of imports, may perhaps be an inevitable result of the fact that traffic in narcotics is illegal.

This is one of the conclusions reached in a study conducted by Fedesarrollo [Federation for Development], which warned, however, that "the obvious costs of legalizing this activity (the narcotics traffic) should be compared to the potential benefits, which must necessarily include a significant reduction in the incentives to engage in such traffic."

The study also recommends, among other things, that the penalties for contraband be reintroduced and that the laundering of dollars be classified as a crime.

It maintains that although the recent administrative changes may have facilitated contraband trade, "to say they have caused it would be very unwise."

The Fedesarrollo study, *Evolution and Determining Factors of the Contraband Trade in Colombia*, by Roberto Steiner and Cristina Fernandez, was written to explain why—despite the ongoing process of opening our borders to world trade—contraband trade has increased significantly instead of decreasing.

The study—which was financed by the Bank of the Republic—is based on the premise that "so long as economic incentives are present, contraband trade will continue to be a problem."

Using a Chilean study, the Fedesarrollo study states: "If the economic incentives are sufficiently great, the controls simply cease to be effective."

The study finds that the existence of differentials both in exchange rates and in interest rates serves to explain a significant part of the problem of underinvoicing.

"These differentials do not exist by accident," the Fedesarrollo study says. "They are caused, among other things, by the existence of controls on the mobility of capital and by the segmentation of the foreign currency market into a formal sector and an informal sector."

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The study concludes that although a measure of liberalization appears to have taken place in the capital account, "much remains to be done."

"A far more complex matter, in our opinion," Fernandez and Steiner say in their study, "is the fact that Colombia's problem with respect to the differential in exchange rates is completely atypical, because of the presence of the narcotics traffic."

They state that legalization of the narcotics traffic—or at least the free movement of the financial resources generated by that traffic—is a prerequisite for elimination of the enormous incentive to launder money through the medium of traditional commercial transactions and open trade in contraband.

The study reminds us that narrowing the differential in interest rates is not an elementary mechanical process. For example, if the domestic rates are higher than the rates abroad—adjusted to allow for expectations of devaluation—the only thing that speeding up the nominal devaluation will do is to generate expectations of a future rise in the rates, so that not only would it fail to achieve the objective of diminishing the anticipated differentials in profitability but might actually increase them.

The study reached the same conclusion as a National Planning study concerning the national tariff structure, namely that a flat tariff should be adopted.

"In order to reduce the incentives to underinvoice through the medium of contraband technology," the Fedesarrollo study says, "we believe it advisable to consider the advantages of introducing a *flat* tariff such as the one already in effect in Chile."

Doubts Concerning Minimum Prices

The Fedesarrollo study calls into question the minimum price mechanism that was put into effect in the textile sector. The study concludes that this mechanism is feasible only with regard to automobiles.

The study compiles a series of proposals for dealing with the problem of contraband trade. Some of these proposals are being implemented—to a lesser extent—by DIAN (Directorate of Tariffs and National Customshouses).

These proposals are:

1. The issuance of receipts when there are differences in the valuation of imported merchandise. This mechanism already exists, according to a DIAN spokesperson.
2. The physical appraisal of merchandise, when justified by the origin of the imports and when occasional or nontraditional importers are involved. This is already being done, according to the same DIAN source.
3. Have private companies unify the customs mechanisms of the public sector. This system has been adopted in Peru, where one must possess validated import and export certificates before shipping merchandise. To prevent the system from becoming ineffective, it should logically be contracted out to companies that have a long tradition and great prestige in this area. In the opinion of the DIAN expert, this system has failed miserably in other countries.
4. Public valuations of merchandise, with the trade associations participating in the control of imports.
5. Verify the origin of all imports on a regular basis rather than sporadically, as is the case at present.
6. Make contraband trade a crime punishable by measures such as imprisonment, as occurs in the United States. The DIAN spokesperson maintains that this would be a step backward.
7. Be extremely careful in establishing zones for free trade with countries that have unquestionably proved to be points of origin for contraband destined for Colombia. In these cases, the mechanisms for issuing regulations concerning the origin of merchandise should be formulated and controlled with extreme care.

The Fedesarrollo investigators agree in part with the DIAN spokesman, namely that implementation of certain of these proposals would constitute a reversal of the process of facilitating trade.

"But neither should one be dogmatic in this matter," the study says. "There are probably rational procedures that could be effective in mitigating the contraband trade scourge without having to resort to traditional interventionism, which according to our calculations has not prevented contraband trade from increasing."

The study goes on to say that "if the useful process of dismantling obstacles—and facilitating trade negotiations—that has taken place in recent years is to be reversed, then measures to supplement those already taken should be considered, including the following:

1. Punish as a crime both the laundering of dollars and the contraband trade, whether such trade be technical or open.
2. Institutional modernization should be stimulated. The timely and efficient compilation of prices of reference should become a priority activity, and also the training of the personnel who are in charge of the control activities.
3. Consider the possibility of involving foreign private agencies that specialize in *certifying* international trade operations.
4. Assess the wisdom of having combined the Customs Service and the Tax Administration in a single institution.

Paraguay

Ambassador to UN Comments on Haitian Crisis

PY0808183494 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 7 Aug 94 p 61

[Text] During a phone call from New York, Jose Felix Fernandez Estigarribia, our ambassador to the United

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Nations, indicated that Paraguay sought to have the political solution fully exhausted before deciding to use force (which was decided in the end) to reestablish democracy in Haiti. As our country was unable to vote—because it is not a member of the UN Security Council—it must obey and cooperate as UN members are obliged to.

"The Foreign Ministry was firm regarding the reestablishment of democracy in Haiti and expressed doubts about the use of force. It wanted the political solution fully exhausted and did not advocate the use of force," the ambassador said.

Fernandez Estigarribia said he consulted two or three times by phone with Foreign Minister Luis Maria Ramirez regarding Haiti because he considers the situation there very important. Haiti has been governed by the military since President-elect Jean Bertrand Aristide was overthrown in September 1991.

"The main responsibility for what is happening lies with the Haitian military government (headed by General Raoul Cedras). It is regrettable that we must once again resort to the use of force, (but) that is a Security Council resolution. Maybe it would have been better to continue the political negotiations," he said.

He indicated that there is a sensation of impotence regarding the reiterated refusal by the Haitian Government to respect human rights and its democratic obligations.

Regarding the green light to invade Haiti that the United Nations has given the United States, we asked the ambassador about the role of Latin American countries that firmly adhere to the principle of the self-determination of peoples. The diplomat indicated that no country believes that principle is in danger. He added: "The Haitian military government violated self-determination (during the bloody military coup), thus the popular will and the sovereignty of the people were violated with Aristide's overthrow."

He indicated that the discussion now revolves around whether intervention is necessary or whether political procedures should be exhausted to resolve the Haitian crisis, especially because an armed intervention always creates precedents in the hemisphere just as unilateral interventions do.

Argentina (which supports an armed intervention) and Brazil (which abstained) were the only two [Latin American] countries that voted. Fernandez indicated that, for Latin America, Jean Aristide—never the military—heads the legitimate government. The Vatican, which is not a UN member, is the only state that recognizes the Haitian military government.

State Employees Protest Privatizations

PY0808144694 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 5 Aug 94 p 3

[Text] More than 5,000 employees of state enterprises that may be privatized obeyed the 24-hour strike called by their unions and marched on 4 August to Congress to protest the government policy to transfer several enterprises to the private sector. The demonstrators repudiated the modification of Draft Law 126/91 which has been approved by the Chamber of Deputies. They petitioned the Senate to ratify the original bill. Union leaders maintain that the deficiencies in these enterprises are due to bad management by those named by the government to manage them, not due to the inefficiency of the services.

Complying with the call to strike by the unions that represent ANDE [National Electric Power Administration], Corposana [Water and Sanitation Corporation], Antelco [National Telecommunications Administration], and IPS [National Social Security Institute] employees, the protesters marched from their respective places of employment to the corner of Brazil and Herrera Streets, and then to Congress.

When they arrived at Plaza Uruguaya, they were joined by employees of the Carlos Antonio Railway, another enterprise that may be privatized. Outside Congress they were met by employees of the National Port Administration, Paraguayan Spirits Enterprise (Capasa), Paraguayan Steel Inc. (Acepar), and the National Cement Industry (INC).

The main rallying point was in front of Congress, where several union leaders expounded the reasons why they oppose privatization.

Ramon Vera Venialgo, secretary general of the ANDE union, referred to the protest. He told congressmen that the Paraguayan people are aware of the quality and efficiency of the public services that are in private hands.

As an example he cited the electricity service in the cities of Villarrica and Concepcion, and the potable water and telephone services in the capital and other cities.

"Under what right or principle are President Wasmosy and Congress dispossessing Paraguayans of the patrimony that has been assembled with the sweat of our ancestors. There is no reason to dispossess us of what little is ours," he said.

He added: "We do not want everything to be put in the hands of the state, but we believe certain industrial monopolies must remain under the control of the state. Only if they are under government control can a development policy for the people be implemented."

He requested that the suitability of those who will acquire the enterprises be studied on a case-by-case basis, as established in the Senate draft bill. "The workers also have the ability to manage the enterprises. If the Wasmosy government is incapable of eliminating corruption, we—the workers—can do so in each enterprise. That is why we say no to privatization," he concluded.

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Peru

General Confirms Invitation to Chile's Pinochet

PY0808144394 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0130 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Excerpts] General Nicolas de Bari Hermoza, chairman of the Armed Forces Joint Command, has confirmed that he has invited his Chilean counterpart, General Augusto Pinochet, to visit our country. The date has yet to be specified. He denied that Lieutenant General (Marco Goytizolo) was reportedly present at the attempt to embargo the house of the CARETAS magazine director. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [De Bari Hermoza] Yes, I have invited Gen. Pinochet. The date has not yet been set. The day of the visit is still open.

[Unidentified reporter] Is this visit official?

[De Bari Hermoza] Yes, it is official. Gen. Pinochet will be welcomed here, not just by the Army Command and the Army, but by all commanding generals who make up the conference of American Armies.

[Reporter] Is it true that a military officer who reportedly works for the intelligence service was present at the attempt to embargo the house of CARETAS magazine director Enrique Zileri?

[De Bari Hermoza] I want a little more seriousness on this issue. Lieutenant Colonel (Marco Goytizolo) is here beside me. This is Lieutenant Colonel (Goytizolo). He works in Cusco, he was in Cusco. This report has already been denied by the National Intelligence Service. [end recording]

Government Calls for Election on 9 April 1995

PY0808152694 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Lima, 8 Aug (EFE)—The Peruvian Government today called for presidential and congressional elections on 9 April 1995.

The corresponding decree, signed by President Alberto Fujimori, was published in the official gazette.

The decree states that if no presidential candidate obtains 50 percent of the votes in the first round, a second round will be held 30 days later.

The runoff will be between the two candidates that obtained the most votes.

Only a simple majority is necessary to win the second round.

Mrs. Fujimori: Electoral Law 'Unconstitutional'

PY0808142094 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0110 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] Lima, 6 Aug (EFE)—Peruvian First Lady Susana Higuchi said today that if Congress annuls an article of the electoral law that prevents her from running for public office, she will consider whether to run for the presidency.

She believes the electoral law that will regulate the 9 April 1995 general elections hurts her right to become a candidate. She said her opposition to the article will not affect the image of her husband, President Alberto Fujimori.

Susana Higuchi asked for the annulment of an article in the electoral law which states that blood relatives of the president of the Republic, to the fourth degree, cannot run for the presidency or for Congress.

President Fujimori's wife left Government House on 2 August to live at the house of a friend. She wrote to all 80 members of Congress and the attorney general asking that the article be declared unconstitutional.

The attorney general said no action can be taken because there is no constitutional court to receive the claim. Today Mrs. Fujimori said she has the right to take the initiative because this is recognized by the Constitution.

Congresswoman Marta Chavez of the government majority said the law that was approved by Congress to rule the elections, which was promulgated by the executive branch, is constitutional.

Enrique Chirinos Soto, congressman and constitutionalist who defines himself independent, explained that the electoral law is unconstitutional because a law cannot overrule the Constitution, which does not prohibit anyone from running for the presidency or Congress.

Susana Higuchi read a statement on Radio Programas del Peru to explain the legal and constitutional basis for the annulment of an article of the electoral law which she considers unconstitutional.

She said she was not advised by anyone because all she had to do was read the Constitution to defend her rights.

Mrs. Fujimori said she seeks to defend the Constitution.

Regarding her husband's possible candidacy for reelection, Susana Higuchi said it will depend on the people.

Opposition Calls Electoral Matters Bill 'Unconstitutional'

PY0508165594 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 22 Jul 94 p A4

[Text] Opposition representatives yesterday stated that the congressional approval of a draft bill on electoral matters at midnight on 20 July is "unconstitutional" and "inapplicable." They said it reflects the governing majority's "desire to commit fraud" in the general elections in April 1995.

Opposition legislators have asked Congressional President Jaime Yoshiyama Tanaka to review the mentioned draft bill "because Congress must be urgently convened

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to debate the opposition's proposal as a minimum guarantee for the upcoming electoral process."

The request is contained in a communique signed by legislators Fernando Olivera (FIM) [Independent Moralization Front], Jose Barba Caballero (Code) [Democratic Coordinating Group], Roger Caceres Valasquez (Frenatraca) [National Front of Workers and Peasants], and Julio Castro Gomez (MDI) [Democratic Left Movement]. It was released to the media during a brief news conference. The document was allegedly also signed by the Popular Christian Party although its representative, Lourdes Flores Nano, did not participate in the news conference.

Olivera said the draft bill approved by Congress on Wednesday contradicts the current Constitution. Moreover, Congress failed to read the Integrated Single Text of Decree Law 14250 before submitting it to a vote.

He said the document is plagued by "serious contradictions:" While one paragraph approves the elimination of departmental court members, another refers to them and to a series of institutions that no longer exist.

FIM legislator Olivera said the ban on members of the president of the Republic's family from becoming members of the presidential or congressional ticket is also unconstitutional.

He said: "A law like this, which refers to the elections, cannot establish restrictions or bans not previously contemplated in the Constitution."

Opposition legislators voiced their confidence that Congressional President Jaime Yoshiyama will acknowledge their request as soon as possible and convene Congress. If not, they warned they will start collecting signatures in support of a session convened by the legislators themselves. According to regulations, for this it is necessary to have one third of the votes, that is, the signature of some 27 legislators.

Commentator Views Fujimori's Campaign

PY0808192094 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 22 Jul 94 p 6

[Mirko Lauer's "Observer" Column: "Stumbling in the Provinces"]

[Text] Alberto Fujimori's electoral campaign is not taking off. His followers insist on presenting polls conducted in Lima which favor him somewhat, but the situation in the rest of the country is quite different. Although there are no rival campaigns yet, Fujimori has a clear electoral ceiling: it does not reach 50 percent in Lima and he is not assured of first place in a national election.

But it is not just the electoral campaign that is not working. The advertisement campaign which sells the idea of a national well-being based on the publication of optimistic economic figures, which are improving the situation in some neighborhoods, is not working either. Fujimori's popularity is maintained, but his reelection chances are tottering. Time is not working in his favor.

What is stopping him? First comes the poverty situation, which is not showing any improvement for most people. Second, his four years of government have left him with an image of an authoritarian and not very scrupulous president. Third comes his confrontation with all the political institutions in the country. Finally there is the perception that he defends the interests of the rich and of the foreigners.

Fujimori has been worn out by all those negative points without even one competitor in the field, even though Javier Perez de Cuellar and Ricardo Belmont are in the wings. It is not known if campaign friction will make Fujimori go up or down, but the truth is that since the 1992 coup, he has never regained his popularity.

The polls, including those of Lima, tend to conceal an opposition vote, a vote which emerges at the last moment. During the past referendum the polls granted large margins of victory to the Yes vote. We published a poll which gave approximately a 20 percent lead to the government. Fujimori's statistical luck is walking on thin ice again today.

As happens with any candidate, Fujimori must remember he needs something to turn the result in his favor. Perhaps he needs more trips to the provinces to hand over donations and dedicate public works; perhaps salary increases during the final stage; or perhaps a serendipitous national emergency that can revive the romance of the people with authoritarianism.

The fact that the president is worn out without any electoral rival also affects his opponents who seem to be convinced that he will lose alone. The main problem is not so much that Fujimori might lose votes, but where those lost votes will go.

Opposition campaigns should by now be on the move. At this point it does not necessarily mean engaging in controversy with the government but to begin presenting alternative proposals throughout the country. The impression is being given that most voters do not welcome Fujimori's message but those voters must not remain in a daze for long. They need an alternative to follow.

SIN Misleading on Size of SL Threat, Expert Says

94SM0411A Lima PERUPAZ in Spanish Jun 94 pp 14-16

[Interview with Carlos Tapia, expert on Shining Path and subversion, by Alberto Otarola Panaranda, place and date not given: "Carlos Tapia: 'Fujimori Is Irresponsible When He Affirms Violence Will End in 1995'"]

[Text] Carlos Tapia is perhaps one of Peru's most knowledgeable and scholarly experts on the phenomenon of political violence in Peru. In this interview, this

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respected analyst and social researcher, Engineer Tapia, assesses and reveals heretofore unknown facts on the evolution of the so-called "Peace Agreements," proposed by Abimael Guzman himself, and the possible plan of action of the shadowy Maoist Shining Path organization.

[Otarola] Eng Tapia, an essential question relates to the assessment of political violence during President Fujimori's administration. In this regard, which event do you deem most important?

[Tapia] Abimael Guzman's capture is a crucial event. It marks a turning point in the course of the civil war. That capture has generated a sense of trust that has spread in the public mind, a perception that the likely defeat of the SL [Shining Path] is near. Guzman's capture also makes possible the imprisonment of 150 regional and local Shining Path leaders, and of some 1,500 suspects. All of this stems from the implementation of a plan that DINCOTE [National Counterterrorism Directorate] and the SIN [National Intelligence Service] had devised and prepared as far back as 1989. Had Abimael Guzman been caught in June 1990, as he almost was, after the first large-scale operation in which the SL's department of organizational support was captured, perhaps the course of the conflict would have changed.

[Otarola] Let us proceed by stages. Until July 1992, political violence—with its high social cost, the spread of violence to urban areas, and the government in a precarious and irresolute posture, among other negative factors—presented a discouraging trend. When was this trend broken?

[Tapia] I believe that terrorist subversion was already in a strategically weakened position as of 1991. A "forward retreat" of Guzman's troops was discernible as of then, the countryside activities of the so-called "People's Guerrilla Army" [EGP] had bogged down, and the self-defense committees were becoming noticeably stronger. Having perceived this weakening in the ranks of the SL, Guzman, during the Central Committee's third plenary session in August 1992—one month before his capture—proposed a people's liberation front to fight against a hypothetical intervention in Peru by foreign forces....

[Otarola] Do you believe in the latter possibility?

[Tapia] I think two players were interested in distorting the facts: On the one hand, Abimael Guzman and the SL leadership, who provoked extreme acts in Lima to convey the impression of a breakdown in government; and on the other hand, the SIN, which knew of the SL's strategic weakness, but continued reporting to the police authorities, the Armed Forces, and the interested sectors the existence of an extremely serious situation of subversion in the country. This misinformation was disseminated despite knowledge of the documents of the third plenary session and of the third section of the "Fifth Master Plan," which contains a detailed tactical and strategic analysis by Guzman himself. There he points out, for example, that the EGP numbers barely 1,500 members, and gives their exact location. These documents, compiled during the period August 1989-February 1990, were found in January 1991....

[Otarola] But in July 1992, the victims of terrorist acts averaged approximately eight per day. Could 1,500 Shining Path members possibly have perpetrated such massacres?

[Tapia] That number corresponded to members of the EGP. However, the number of local and base-support forces totaled more or less 4,000, and that of organized members of the SL totaled approximately 10,000 persons. The manuscripts taken from Guzman show in detail the number of soldiers, the number of weapons, the location of each contingent, and the missions among the population under distinct denominations. And here, a peculiar number appears, which Guzman considers to be the strength of his movement's entire force: 23,428 men. This number is suspicious, because it includes the so-called "base-support forces," which are those that are now repenting. They were peasants who were compelled to remain under the Shining Path's dictatorial thumb and who served quantitatively for the purpose of Guzman's evaluations. The truth, however, is annotated by Guzman himself: 2,637 militants.

[Otarola] Let us talk about the government's strategy. Some analysts maintain that it has been unduly militaristic....

[Tapia] That is contrary to what the military believe. Note that President Fujimori constantly associates the successes of the countersubversive fight with military victory. He refers to General Hermoza as the "victorious general." He does not realize that the primary success he [Fujimori] has achieved has been a political victory, and, authoritarian that he is, he accords primacy to the military factor. Recently, Francisco Guerra-Garcia wrote a very interesting observation on this subject. He wondered what would have happened had Alan Garcia's government lasted two more years. Would Shining Path's defeat have been possible? "I maintain that it would not have been possible," he states, "because military defeat is a consequence of political defeat, and in order to have political defeat there must be social isolation...."

[Otarola] Was the Garcia government politically irresolute?

[Tapia] It was very difficult to isolate Shining Path socially when the majority of the Peruvian population was strongly opposed to the government. Availing itself of an advantageous situation at that time, Shining Path simply kept adding fuel to the fires of the population's discontent with Alan Garcia's government. Fujimori's government, on the other hand, with all the faults it may have, began by resolving the psychological problem of physical insecurity, lowered inflation—thus resolving the economic insecurity—then instituted an all-out fight

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against subversion. That approach was the effective weapon against Shining Path; the military contribution came as an ensuing consequence. The so-called "militaristic" strategy was instituted during the years 1983-1984. From 1984 to 1988 there was an interregnum, a period of transition, during which Belaunde was only concerned with handing over the reins of government, and Garcia, who came in very strong, found his strategy faltering because of events like Accomarca and Pucayacu. During this period Shining Path amassed forces to promote its first congress. Starting in 1989, the government implemented another type of strategy that in my opinion was not exclusively militarist....

[Otarola] In November 1991, however, those 37 famous decrees were issued—laws that in the opinion of people in the know accorded primacy to a militaristic strategy....

[Tapia] The principal emphasis of those laws is on the function they assign to the military, calling for them to take on duties in the nonmilitary sectors. Strategy is militaristic only if it accords priority to military confrontation. In this case, the military is put in command of the current struggle in nonmilitary sectors.

[Otarola] A dramatic figure is the one reflecting almost 9 million Peruvians, the so-called "war children," born under the cross fire of 12 years of civil war. How can that generation be saved?

[Tapia] It is certainly a generation that has been seriously affected. And even more so in the case of the children from Peru's south-central sierra and the fringe areas of the selva, who are suffering a severe psychological trauma. In this respect, a very interesting study was carried out on a drawing contest among rural children. A comparative analysis was made on how rural children used to draw before the war and how they are drawing after the war. Today's drawings reflect the following themes: "This was my village"; "This is the 'sinchi' [member of a Civil Guard antiguerrilla corps]"; "He is the terrorist." Implied is a disturbing war culture.

[Otarola] The attitude of the government and of the population has changed since the capture [of Guzman], and the so-called "repentance law" is beginning to produce results. Even though this law has had a positive effect, do you think it is time now to amend the antiterrorist legislation because it has already accomplished its main purpose?

[Tapia] The "repentance law" has produced many good results, and one wonders why it was not implemented earlier. But it must be kept in mind that this law in itself cannot solve the problem. Its success stems from its having been passed at a time when Shining Path is dispersing its forces. What does seem to me to be exaggerated is that the repentants are being said to number 4,000. I have made some calculations in this regard and have arrived at the conclusion that no more that 40 to 60 Shining Path members have repented, of whom only four or six are leaders and executives with a rank of any importance....

[Otarola] What about the men in striped suits who are shown on television daily? Are they not repentants?

[Tapia] No. In the majority of cases they are farmers who lived in areas under Shining Path control and were obliged to perform a task. In Hallaga, for example, those farmers who were located in pockets controlled by Shining Path had to take on delegated functions imposed upon them by SL or become part of the base-support force of the People's Guerrilla Army. When a Shining Path platoon controlling an area retreats, the Armed Forces consider that all those who remain have been collaborators of terrorism. These farmers, therefore, in order to get on the right side of the law, take refuge in the repentance law and say that they are not Shining Path members and that they were compelled to cooperate. Within this absurd logic, why then should the businessmen who paid quotas to the MRTA [Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement] not be required to take refuge in the repentance law? These are two elements of the same problem.

[Otarola] And what about the other points of the antiterrorist legislation?

[Tapia] The death penalty provision was an electoral gambit. On the other hand, I believe that a life imprisonment provision is desirable, in order, above all, to punish crimes of the gravity of those perpetrated by terrorists. What is wrong, however, is the trial system; that those sitting in judgment, in the ambit of the military's exclusive jurisdiction, be faceless judges. There are no provisions for an adequate defense, and many irregularities and injustices are being committed. Father Lassier has reported that there are perhaps between 400 and 1,000 persons accused of terrorism, many of them already sentenced, who are innocent. There have been cases in which military judges sitting on cases involving life imprisonment have taken cognizance of the prior proceedings, a document of some 300 pages, three hours before the trial. This is inadmissible.

[Otarola] Another subject of debate relates to the state of emergency. Twenty-five percent of the territory and 11 million of us Peruvians are reduced to that status. Has the moment perhaps not arrived to return its rights to the civil society?

[Tapia] The state of emergency is not felt in Lima as much, for example, as in Castrovirreyna or Huancabamba. I believe that as terrorist action decreases, a gradual restoration of a state of full rights is called for, and that the politico-military commands must not retain the extraordinary prerogatives they now have. The current situation implies the prospect of a long-term military presence that is not exactly justified by the prospective needs of the countersubversive activity, but rather, perhaps, by the intent to control the electoral process.

[Otarola] Do you think violence will end in 1995? President Fujimori is very optimistic....

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[Tapia] To maintain that it will is irresponsible. Shining Path, which has incarnated a phenomenon with social implications anchored in some ways in the history of the country, and which has survived for 14 years, can hardly be expected to disappear simply because the president of the Republic says it will. Social processes do not end overnight. I therefore maintain that a civil war scenario no longer exists. Why? Because that scenario presupposes that armed violence is the country's primary problem. Violence was so severe at times that it colored all aspects of our socioeconomic and political life. If we were to ask the public its opinion now of the country's primary problem, its response would be that the number one problem is jobs; next in order of importance would be hunger; and then terrorism. This same question asked in 1991, however, elicited these responses in inverse order, with terrorism as the country's number one problem.

[Otarola] Speaking of core issues, do you believe that the human rights issue will continue being one of Peru's principal problems? In 1991 and 1992 we had the dubious honor of occupying first place in the UN ranking as regards "desaparecidos" [persons who have disappeared]....

[Tapia] A golden rule in all countersubversive strategies is never to kill innocent persons, because the legitimacy of any such strategy is based on the judicious and measured use of force. When something like La Cantuta occurs, those responsible for the disappearance and death of the students and professors should not only have stood trial for murder but also for having done the terrorists a mammoth favor. La Cantuta handed the SL its greatest gain ever. From the standpoint of effectiveness, therefore, and apart from ethical and moral considerations, the violating of human rights is the epitome of crass stupidity. During 10 years of civil war in Malaysia, there were 400 deaths attributable to the so-called "excesses" of the armed forces. Here in Peru, that figure must be multiplied by 10.

[Otarola] The peace agreement proposed by Guzman is on the table. What is your reading of this ostentatious display of letters, slogans, and SL submittals?

[Tapia] On principle, I am in favor of a peace agreement, if it truly facilitates our putting an end to the car bombs, the deaths of innocent persons, and the dynamiting. But the prerequisite for a lasting peace has to be a profound intent to achieve pacification. My perception of the famous letters is that, recognizing that he has been defeated, Abimael Guzman has decided to seek a negotiation that will enable him to lessen the impact of his defeat. He knows that he cannot surrender, and so, in his second letter, he sets forth a historical analysis in which he acknowledges the need to temporarily suspend the waging of a people's war for a period of time. Thus, this would not be a peace agreement, but rather a truce. Nor, for that matter, is the state interested in negotiating with Shining Path. No one is going to permit the conditioning of his or her freedom, for example, or some other unacceptable conditioning, to be negotiated with Guzman. This is a kind of horse trade, a game of mutual deceit, an exchange of concessions between the signers of the so-called "peace agreement...."

[Otarola] Moreover, it seems absurd to negotiate with a prisoner....

[Tapia] It is. It seems that the object is to split the SL. And they have partially achieved that.

[Otarola] The second part of my question was to address that very point. How do you view the rebuilding of the SL? Feliciano seems to be very active.

[Tapia] What exists now is a "little" Shining Path, which has many weaknesses in relation to the previous organization. Abimael Guzman's personal leadership is no longer there. Other factors, however, are also cause for concern, such as that of not knowing the persons who comprise its political section. Feliciano's leadership is much more flawed than was Abimael Guzman's, because Feliciano is trying to carry out agreements left to him by Guzman that were known from the outset to be impossible to carry out.

[Otarola] What kind of agreements?

[Tapia] For example, the famous "strategic balance" and the "Sixth Master Military Plan." The latter called for taking Ayacucho, extending understandings like that of Raucana to other zones of Lima, forming large military units, and shifting to a war of movement. Implementation of these plans was impossible. And conscious of the limitations of his plan, what Abimael Guzman sought was to provoke a foreign intervention. Large military units never existed, except on paper, and Feliciano has inherited those nonviable directives. They are agreements reached in the Central Committee's third plenary session, and they are leading him toward the cliff. This is why all indications point to the convoking of a second congress that would be held simultaneously in all the jails. The meetings of the prisoners in the various jails would be convoked by SIN and Guzman.

[Otarola] A congress held in prison?

[Tapia] A disturbing fact is that facilities are being provided in each jail for bringing the prisoners together. The prisoners will discuss documents, and the summary of their discussions will be conveyed, via the SIN, to Abimael Guzman. LA REPUBLICA has already published the 11 points of the SL agreements. They include the granting of amnesties to the political prisoners, the restitution of its files, and of the remains of comrade Nora, to the party, and the release of the prisoners, who in return would pledge to dissolve the people's committees and the EGP, and to surrender and disable the organization's weapons. The only problem is that those who would be signing these agreements are in jail and have no control over even a single revolver. Independently of what is on paper, therefore, it is to Guzman's

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advantage for Feliciano to continue placing car bombs, as otherwise, Guzman will have no position from which to negotiate. That marks the difference between interests and positions. The two sides occupy positions opposed to each other, but they have common interests.

[Otarola] The SIN is therefore playing an extremely dangerous game....

[Tapia] It is clearly a dangerous game. The idea of holding Abimael Guzman prisoner gives Agent 002 a very substantial power that depends in great measure on the continuation of the SL's strategy. The SIN and the SL are becoming necessary to each other. This is why Guzman, in one of his papers, cautions that "care must be taken to avoid introducing maneuvers external to this negotiation."

[Otarola] What is your view of the future course of political violence in Peru?

[Tapia] I view the trend as a declining one, with political violence continuing over a more or less extended period, without, however, compromising the country's governability in the least. All signs indicate that attacks will become increasingly isolated and that repressive action by the police forces will become increasingly effective. If we are to avert car bombs, criminal attacks, and selective assassinations, we must strengthen the work of police intelligence.

[Otarola] To satisfy my journalistic inquisitiveness: Do you like the sobriquet "senderologo" ["Shining Pathologue"]?

[Tapia] Absolutely not. That is a derogatory label coined by President Fujimori himself. The president has many good qualities, and many others that are less than good, and one of the latter is letting himself be overly influenced by the SIN. Since he is authoritarian and tries to portray himself as the cat's whiskers, he does not want to be perceived as part of a faction. Moreover, he neither recognizes nor respects anyone, and in keeping therewith discredits those who according to him are "senderologos." The fact of the matter is that we are analysts to whose specialization the political reality itself has contributed. As for the rest of it, I am an agricultural engineer, just as he is.

Venezuela

Caldera, Mexico's Salinas Renew San Jose Pact

PA0708194194 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 4 Aug 94 p 1-12

[Text] Presidents Rafael Caldera and Carlos Salinas de Gortari simultaneously signed a one-year renewal of the San Jose Pact in Caracas and Mexico City at noon yesterday.

The agreement provides 13 Central American and Caribbean countries with 160,000 barrels of oil per day and economic development projects financed by 20-25 percent of oil revenues. More than 40 Venezuelan firms have been participating in such development projects.

The favored countries are: Barbados, Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, the Dominican Republic, and Haiti, which has been temporarily suspended due to UN sanctions.

The joint declaration states:

Rafael Caldera, president of the Republic of Venezuela, and Carlos Salinas de Gortari, president of the United Mexican States,

Taking into account the joint declaration issued in San Jose, Costa Rica, on 3 August 1980, and the succeeding yearly statements extending the Energy Cooperation Program for Central American and Caribbean countries;

Underscoring that the program's succeeding renewals exhibit Venezuela's and Mexico's special ties of friendship with the Central American and Caribbean countries and their firm will to further integration as stated at the Ibero-American summits held in Guadalajara, Madrid, Salvador de Bahia, and Cartagena de Indias;

Convinced that the program contributes to sustainable development within the framework of international social justice and absolute respect for the self-determination of the countries;

Aware that economic and political changes in the world have posed the need for our countries to expedite their process of economic modernization, consolidate regional cooperation and economic integration efforts, and increase trade and investments between Venezuela and Mexico and the beneficiary countries.

Whereas the current situations in Venezuela and Mexico, within the framework of their respective strategies of economic reorganization, indicate the appropriateness of continuing a financing mechanism that will reflect the conditions of the international hydrocarbon market;

Decide to renew, as of 3 August 1994, the Energy Cooperation Program for Central American and Caribbean Countries for an additional year, based on the principles of the Joint Statement issued in San Jose, Costa Rica, on 3 August 1980 and successive statements, based on the following points:

First: Venezuela and Mexico have decided to jointly supply up to 160,000 barrels of oil per day. The amount will be evaluated and adjusted according to the requirements of the beneficiary countries and the availability of the product in the supplying countries.

Second: The supplies provided by Venezuela and Mexico under this program will be subject to commercial policies and practices established by their government organizations.

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Third: Venezuela and Mexico will grant credits to finance the commercial exchange of goods and services and/or short- or long-term economic development projects, as well as domestic expenses according to their respective financial policies and practices and the following rates:

Average Cost of Sale (US$)	Financing Percentage
From 15.00 to 20.99	20 percent
From 21.00 to 24.99	21 percent
From 25.00 to 29.99	22 percent
From 30.00 to 34.99	23 percent
From 35.00 TO 39.99	24 percent
From 40 Onward	25 percent

Fourth: The Bilateral Follow-Up Committee will continue to meet regularly to evaluate the program and, if necessary, will propose to the respective governments the adoption of new procedures to better implement the program.

The presidents of the Republic of Venezuela and the United Mexican States issue this joint declaration, simultaneously, in Caracas and Mexico City on 3 August 1994. Rafael Caldera, president of the Republic of Venezuela Carlos Salinas de Gortari, president of the United Mexican States

Interior Minister Discusses Political Climate

PA0808173594 Caracas ECONOMIA HOY in Spanish 5 Aug 94 p 8

[Text] Interior Minister Ramon Escovar Salom, regarding the decree which suspends rights he presented to Congress, has said that the political climate is very positive and that he believes the document is aimed at reconciling the feelings and confrontations that have existed in the country for several years.

He has said the presidential team agrees any economic decision must be based on political considerations. "The error persists that economy and politics are completely separated from one another. This matter is why I will stress this point as a minister."

He added that economic problems cannot be resolved without previous political agreements and that, as a minister, he keeps in contact with the various congressional factions in order to create a climate of greater understanding and national unity. "We must make a great effort to reconcile the contradictory views this decree has elicited."

He added the receptivity of the congressmen plays a key role in the search for a consensus, but he gave no additional details on the positions of the various congressional factions.

Regarding the annulment appeal the Supreme Court of Justice accepted on 3 August against the decree which suspends rights, Escovar Salom has said it is necessary to wait for the court's ruling before making a statement on the matter.

He said later his office has determined the mechanism through which former president Jaime Lusinchi left the country. Although he has said the investigation is well under way, he declined to disclose additional details on this case.

Concerning the detention of the son of Trina Michelangeli, former DIEX [Directorate of Identification and Alien Affairs] director, Escovar Salom has said he has no evidence this incident did happen, despite his alleged participation in the former president's flight. Finally, he said the delay of the order banning Lusinchi from leaving the country did not occur at his office.

Foreign Exchange Seen Insufficient for Imports

PA0608053694 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 Aug 94

[From the "Union Radio News" Newscast]

[Text] Edgardo Romero Navas, president of the Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry [Fedecamaras], has said that the amount of foreign exchange granted so far is insufficient to finance the imports the country needs. Cecilia Cayonne has a report:

[Cayonne] Romero Navas also said the foreign exchange market has no liquidity.

[Begin Romero recording, in progress] ...as soon as possible. This situation will have an impact on the supply of goods. Remember, the lack of supply does not mean there is no food; it means that if there is no transportation and if there are no spare parts for vehicles, machinery, and tractors, shortages may emerge even though we have raw materials. [end recording]

[Cayonne] The Fedecamaras' Economic Affairs Division is conducting a study to accurately determine how many businesses have closed down since foreign exchange controls were implemented in Venezuela.

Meanwhile, Zulia State importers have not received foreign exchange for the past 48 days. Giovanni Esposito has the story:

[Esposito] Zulia Fedecamaras has reported that some 7,000 requests filed by Zulia importers are gathering dust at the Technical Foreign Exchange Administration Office [Oficina Tecnica de Administracion Cambiaria]. Fedecamaras First Vice President Rafael Diaz Serrano pointed out Zulia importers have not received the foreign exchange needed to operate for the past 40 days. He also predicted a shortage of basic necessities in Zulia, the Andean region, and the eastern Colombian region.

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Prosecutor General Creates New Antidrug Office

PA0808132794 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 5 Aug 94 p 1-17

[Text] Prosecutor General Ivan Dario Badell Gonzalez has created the Illegal Drugs Office [Oficina Contral el Uso Ilicito de las Drogas], which is directly under the supervision of his office, to further safeguard the enforcement of the Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.

This new office will be responsible for expeditiously handling any questions on the issue asked by the Attorney General's Office. It will also control the prosecutor's legal actions in drug cases and will make any suggestions it deems necessary to benefit the prosecutor's effectiveness. Furthermore, the new office will handle drug presentations requested by public or private institutions at the prosecutor's office. In addition, it will be tasked with other missions by the Attorney General's Office. necessary to wait for the court's ruling before making a statement on the matter.

He said later his office has determined the mechanism through which former president Jaime Lusinchi left the country. Although he has said the investigation is well under way, he declined to disclose additional details on this case.

Concerning the detention of the son of Trina Michelangeli, former DIEX [Directorate of Identification and Alien Affairs] director, Escovar Salom has said he has no evidence this incident did happen, despite his alleged participation in the former president's flight. Finally, he said the delay of the order banning Lusinchi from leaving the country did not occur at his office.

Radical Cause Withdraws Over Referendum

PA0508152394 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 3 Aug 94 p D-1

[Report by Ascension Reyes R.]

[Text] As announced, the Radical Cause parliamentary faction yesterday made official its temporary withdrawal from Congress until President Rafael Caldera keeps his commitment to hold a referendum proposed by the Radicals on the issue of a constituent assembly.

The official announcement was made at the session by Deputy Jose Albornoz, president of the Culture Commission, who said that the AD-COPEI [Democratic Action-Social Christian Party] union, representing 52 percent of the legislators, shows that the installation of the parliament was not legal. This is why they have been proposing some changes, such as those on a constituent assembly.

According to Albornoz, some far-reaching decisions have been made that did not require the suspension of guarantees. As examples he mentioned the cases of former President Carlos Andres Perez and of Antonio Rios, former president of the CTV [Confederation of Venezuelan Workers].

He emphasized that the referendum should include that which is relevant to a national constituent assembly in order to fill the power vacuum that now exists. "In this way, people will be allowed to decide their nation's destiny. For these reasons and to ease the way for the chief of state, we have decided to temporarily withdraw from Congress. He warned that if this referendum is not conducted, on 11 August tney will hold their own referendum on a constituent. [no closing quotation mark as published]

Alvarez Beria Stayed On

Following Albornoz's statement, the Radical Cause bench withdrew from the Deputies Chamber and marched around the Federal Palace, demanding that a referendum be held and that a constituent assembly be convened.

The march was led by Bolivar Governor Andres Velasquez, Radical Cause General Secretary Pablo Medina, and Deputies Jorge Roig, Jorge Reyes, Jesus Perez, Carlos Melo, and Pastora Medina.

Only General Oscar Alvarez Beria (retired), who since last week has been saying that he will not to obey the order to withdraw, remained in his seat.

Alvarez Beria noted yesterday that during the debate on solutions to the crisis the Radical's representative did not make any proposal for easing the problems. This is why he (Alvarez Beria) had to rise and submit 19 recommendations. He did not omit the fact that, in Guayana, Radical Cause had adopted a position demanding restoration of the guarantees and had brought it back to Caracas. He said that on that occasion he warned his faction that if the proposal was passed he would reserve his vote.

[Alvarez Beria] The final madness is the withdrawal from Congress to give Caldera the opportunity to do something good for the nation. What does this mean? It is a total lack of responsibility and seriousness: impair just to impair and weaken just to weaken. This does not help Radical Cause in any way, nor does it help the nation solve the serious and critical situation that it is experiencing.

Regarding possible sanctions, for example his expulsion for contradicting party guidelines, Alvarez Beria read a short note in which he asked: "Will it be possible for me to remain in Radical Cause, a project that always counted on my efforts, advice, recommendations, my planning, even on my charges against fifth columnists, against opportunists and Johnnies-come-lately, all set out in thousands of pages?"

"A political project, of which some leaders spontaneously at one time overgenerously told me that I was

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Radical Cause's conscience," he added. "It is not that I do not know this but that permanence will depend on the lifelong leaders. If I am to continue, I cannot do it without the respect that up until now Radical Cause has shown me," he said.

Suriname

Defense Cooperation Disputed With The Hague

BR0808125294 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 5 Aug 94 p 3

[Unattributed article: "Suriname: Problems With Defense"]

[Text] Paramaribo—"The basis for defense cooperation between Suriname and the Netherlands is becoming shaky," Suriname's Defense Minister Siegfried Gilds said. He disapproved in the strongest terms of the Netherlands position regarding the payment of overdue "salary supplements" to 20 officers of the Surinamese Army.

He definitely does not agree that the Netherlands should link the supplement issue to the continuation of projects undertaken as part of bilateral cooperation. The Netherlands is said to want to use the payments as a means of exerting pressure to force the Surinamese Army's restructuring, among other things.

"The Netherlands is creating enormous obstacles to defense cooperation," Gilds said Thursday [4 August] at a news conference in Paramaribo.

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